
CABINET REPORT



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Service Area	Performance, Partnerships & Audit
Committee Division	Strategic
Committee Date	12 th February 2014

To: Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Proposed Efficiencies 2014-15 Public Consultation Report – Phase 1

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide Cabinet with the results of the public consultation exercise carried out across the County Borough in January and February 2014, in relation to Phase 1 of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Proposed Efficiency Cuts for 2014/15.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1** With UK Government cutting the level of funding to public services, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council needs to reduce its levels of services.
- 1.2** Engagement with citizens is an essential part of the Council's budget setting process. This provides the Council with opinions from the public on the proposals put forward for service reduction. The aim of the consultation period was to work with members of the public to gather their views in order to provide Cabinet with a collective response to the proposed cuts in service.

2.0 PROPOSED EFFICIENCIES PUBLIC CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 The process used for consultation took a varied range of methodologies to ensure as wide a response as possible. This gave members of the public an opportunity to have their say. The methodology included:

Online Survey

2.2 An online survey was designed using the SNAP Survey Software package and hosted on the Council Website as well as the ESF Funded “Cwm Taf Community Engagement Hub” for 4 weeks (6th January – 3rd February 2014).

2.3 Emails were sent out to the Citizens’ Panel during the consultation period in order to make use of this commodity and increase engagement and awareness.

2.4 Results were analysed using the SNAP Survey Software in order to determine citizen’s opinions about the proposals.

2.5 Results of the online survey are in **Appendix 1**.

Drop In Sessions

2.6 Three “Drop In” Sessions were held across the County Borough in January 2014. Citizens were given the opportunity to speak to service managers of each proposed service cut and give comments by either completing a survey or filling in a consultation leaflet.

2.7 Tables were set up in each of the centres to allow for members of the public to speak to service managers individually and voice their concerns, share opinions and ask questions about the proposals.

2.8 “Drop In” Sessions were held on:

- 27th January 2014 (4-6pm) - Aberfan Community Centre
- 28th January 2014 (12-2pm) - Treharris Community Centre
- 28th January 2014 (4:15-6:15pm) - Soar Chapel

2.9 Updates reminding citizens of the online survey, “drop in sessions” and how to engage were sent periodically via the Council social networking sites (namely Facebook and Twitter) to followers during the consultation process.

2.10 Posters advertising the drop in sessions were distributed throughout the County Borough before the scheduled drop in sessions as well as updates via social media and the Council’s website and the Cwm Taf Community Engagement Hub.

2.11 Results of the sessions are listed in **Appendix 3**.

Paper Leaflets

2.12 Paper consultation leaflets were produced. These gave a brief introduction into each proposal with a section for providing comments. Leaflets were distributed to affected service users via service departments as well as placed in public places.

2.13 Over **6,500** leaflets were distributed throughout the County Borough.

2.14 Copies were received and then entered onto the SNAP Survey Software package by Business Support staff to be analysed.

2.15 450 copies were sent to Merthyr Tydfil residents of the Cwm Taf Citizens' Panel.

2.16 Results of the leaflet responses are in **Appendix 2**.

Direct Service User Engagement

2.17 In order to ensure that affected service users were directly engaged with, there were several methodologies used including:

- Leaflets were hand delivered to service users for comments and then collected and returned for analysis.
- Posters were placed in affected service areas to highlight drop in sessions.
- Where appropriate, service managers organised workshops for affected users to share their opinions and feed into the consultation process.

2.18 Details received from direct service user engagement have been analysed where appropriate, dependant on the method of engaging. If leaflets were returned they were analysed within the leaflet section, if short surveys were completed they were analysed as part of the drop in sessions.

Other Engagement Methods

2.19 There were other ways that the public were invited to engage, these included email, by letter, petitions and phone calls.

2.20 Results for letters, emails and petitions can be seen in **Appendix 4 and 5**.

2.21 Workshops were also held with:

- Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum with 28 young people and 6 members of staff. **24** copies of the full surveys were completed at the workshop.
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil with approximately 50 voluntary sector representatives and staff. A written response from VAMT was received as a result.

Findings and Feedback

2.22 The full results of the consultation are listed in the Appendices.

2.23 Following analysis of the results, finer details and information will be made available for individual departments upon request. The information available is to inform Council of the views of the public on the proposed efficiency savings.

2.24 On completion, feedback will be provided to the public via a report placed on the Engagement Hub and the corporate website with notices provided on social networking sites. A summary report will also be placed in the CONTACT magazine in the next issue. This will allow members of the public to be fully aware of the Council's commitment to feedback and thank the public for their engagement.

2.25 All responses that were received in the medium of Welsh have been included within the analysis and results below.

Key Findings

2.26 There were **901** responses to the online survey (including paper based surveys that were entered for analysis).

2.27 There were **1,162** leaflets received.

2.28 Attendance at the "Drop In" sessions was **179**.

2.29 There were **238** short surveys completed at drop in sessions or service user workshops.

2.30 Letters and emails received stands at **57** from the public and stakeholders.

2.31 Four petitions were received with a total of **3,545** signatories.

2.32 Total responses equal **2,358 individuals** and **4 petitions** (3,545 signatories).

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

3.1 Financial implications arising from the consultation process will be considered within the final budget process where appropriate.

4.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time. The screening form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

5.0 SIP IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the report has a neutral impact on the priority outcomes of the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan. It has a positive impact on a number of the supporting principles including Financial Sustainability of Public Services, Working with Communities, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Equal Opportunities, Social Inclusion and The Welsh Language.

5.2 In relation to the individual proposals, once a final decision is made then a separate impact assessment will be completed. This Impact Assessment relates to the Consultation process itself.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The results of this public consultation exercise be received and considered as part of the Budget setting process for 2014-15.

GARETH CHAPMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
<i>Title of Document(s)</i>	<i>Document(s) Date</i>	<i>Document Location</i>
Outcome of Consultation Exercise	6 th January–3 rd February 2014	Partnership Team

Consultation has been undertaken with Executive Board in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.

Outcomes of Online Surveys

The online survey was available between the 6th of January and the 3rd of February 2014 (5pm). Results of this survey are displayed in this appendix.

There were a total of 901 responses to this questionnaire. As well as being available online there was also a number of questionnaires that were completed at the Council's "Drop In" sessions as well as paper based copies that were printed and sent in.

For the sake of analysis, all of the paper based copies have been input into the SNAP Online Survey Software System for ease of analysis.

****Please note, as all the questions in the questionnaire were optional, every individual who completed a survey did not necessarily complete all of the questions. Please take note of the number of responses given to each question.**

Introductory Section

1.1 Understanding

Members of the public were asked if they understood why the Council needs to reduce the services it delivers for 2014-15.

There were 734 responses to this question with the majority stating they understood the need to reduce services. **84%** (619 out of 734 responses) stated they understood the need to reduce services.

1.2 Approach Taken

The approach the Council has taken to make savings is to look at all the services it delivers and make the cuts accordingly. Members of the public were asked if they agreed with this approach.

Of the 729 people who answered this question 541 (**74%**) agreed with this approach.

1.3 Principles

There are several principles that were taken into consideration when the Council looked to plan their budget and make savings for 2014-15.

Respondents were asked if they agreed with these principles and the results are displayed in the table on the next page.

	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	TOTAL
Services are provided equally to all citizens across Merthyr Tydfil	432 (63%)	259 (37%)	691
The Council continues to provide all important services to vulnerable people	490 (71%)	199 (29%)	689
Services will continue to meet the Council's statutory obligations	466 (68%)	219 (32%)	685

Figure 1: Agreement to Principles

From the table we can see that all the principles had agreement in the main, with “*providing services for vulnerable people*” the principle with the most support at **71%**.

Proposal 1: Healthy Ageing Programme

2.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 665 responses to this question with the majority agreeing to remove the Healthy Ageing Programme and provide alternative services.

72% of responses agreed (476 out of 665 responses).

2.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member used the Healthy Ageing Programme.

Only **10%** of respondents who completed the questionnaire access this service (66 out of 651 responses)

2.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 583 responses who answered this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (521 responses, **89%**).

Of those who did access the service (62 responses), **42%** used the service daily (26 responses), **39%** used the service weekly (24 responses) and **19%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (12 responses)

2.4 Additional Comments

There were 80 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Volunteering

“Using volunteers with vulnerable people is not sustainable.”

“This is another Example where Volunteers are filling the Gap, often not with the knowledge needed.”

“The council need to work closer with the third sector to ensure delivery to older people”

“Make sure volunteers are trained”

“Are any voluntary groups providing this service? And if so, are their efforts being coordinated to maximise their impact?”

“Agree that volunteers can assist with providing a valuable service”

Role of Age Cymru

“I believe Age Cymru is a charity and therefore there is no guarantee that this will be funded, so can you justify ending this service if some clients, in the future, will suffer due to this cut? I have concerns for our elderly members in our community, what will the future hold for them?”

“I am extremely concerned that Age Cymru are still publicly stating that they have no intention of creating services which will adequately fill the huge gap cutting this service will create.”

“Has Age Cymru made any formal commitment to providing this service/programme on a like for like basis and one that is not detrimental to the service user?”

“I would expect the council to reduce the savings level in order to ensure that Age Cymru is adequately funded to provide this service”

Training of Staff

“Make sure volunteers are trained”

“Relying on volunteers is a huge risk when providing such specialist help.”

Proposal 2: Learning Disability Care Homes

3.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 640 responses to this question with the majority agreeing to change the way the care homes are registered and managed.

61% of responses agreed (389 out of 640 responses).

3.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member used either the Park View or Glendere care homes.

4% of respondents either lived in or had relatives living in Park View Care Home (27 out of 604 responses) whilst **2%** of respondents either lived in or had relatives living in Glendere Care Home (15 out of 598 responses).

3.3 Additional Comments

There were 99 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. Below are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading.

Staffing Issues

“Will staff remain as Council employees? How long will the application process take to de-register a care home? What will happen to the status of the residents?”

“It is IMPERATIVE that the residents DO NOT EXPERIENCE ANY CHANGES - saying they 'should not' isn't good enough. This needs to be guaranteed for this to go ahead.”

“It is essential that persons with LD do not have their provisions reduced”

Regulation of Homes

“With no registration there is no regulation on standards of care provided”

“This proposal would save money but cause minimal or no disruption to a service.”

“Strict guidelines must be put in place to ensure that tenants continue to have the same care at the same or better standard as a registered care home.”

Future

“What happens when the existing residents leave, will they be replaced with new residents or will the empty properties be sold off”

“My concern would be a rise in costs in future years might impact on some residents - it would be essential appropriate support for residents was put in place to ensure they were not disadvantaged”

Independence

“We have a similar set up with a family member, we followed this path ourselves to ensure that our family member became a tenant in his own right, we felt that it offered him more security by being in control of where he lived and what service providers we used.”

“So long as the new tenants are fully aware of this and they are happy with it”

“My sister used to live in a care home for disabled people in Aberdeen; I think a system such as this would have given her a better chance at progress towards independence.”

Proposal 3: Children with Disabilities

4.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 639 responses to this question with just over half of respondents agreeing to change the way that services are provided to children with disabilities.

56% of responses agreed (360 out of 639 responses).

4.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member used the Children with Disabilities service.

11% of respondents either used the service themselves or had family members that did (67 out of 632 responses).

4.3 Additional Comments

There were 98 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. Below are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading.

Equality

“Again not all people with needs should be treated equally”

“Any family with a child/children with a disability of any type, no matter how mild or serious should receive the same access to above services, very often parents have to wait a long time before a diagnosis is made”

“Families who are not most in need are still in need and should continue to have support. Understandably, not every case is equal and some families may require more service than others however this should already be implemented. These children and their families are the individuals who most rely on the funding and services of the local authorities.”

Agreement and Suggestions

“Although this will undoubtedly mean that those who could benefit from the service, if cuts are needed and if this has been shown effective in other authorities, then it seems that it will work.”

“As long as the measurement of the families most in need is done fairly and no one will be denied support if they need it”

“I agree as long as services are provided to families that are considered 'less in need' via other third sector organisations.”

“I am not entirely happy with this proposal, but I knew it was coming. I understand that more children with severe medical problems are surviving due to advances in medical science, which is putting pressure on the service. For those that no longer meet criteria, there should be alternative support through social enterprises, charities and community groups - particularly for children with behaviour problems.”

Classification

“I suffer from numerous chronic health conditions since I was 11 years old. Although I struggle I have now been working for over a year and I have just turned 18 years old. At the age of 14 my health spiralled out of control and I was almost house bound. If I never had the support given to me I would have never been able to get my GCSE's, work, go college or live anything as close to a 'normal' life as I do now. If these proposals were put in place back when I desperately needed it. I wouldn't have been classed as 'most in need' and I would probably still be incredibly ill and suffering with further depression.”

“I would agree in principle, but I have seen so many cases of people being left out of services that they need due to modern assessment processes.”

“My brother who has a speech impediment and learning difficulties that effect his day to day life including his chances of getting the job he wants and passing exams he needs due to his lack of reading ability. He will lose his benefits as he's not classed as severe enough but this money makes a massive difference to him. Gives him the confidence to use public transport and meet with friends.”

Proposal 4: Meals on Wheels

5.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 650 responses to this question with the majority not agreeing to remove the Meals on Wheels service and provide alternative services.

37% of responses agreed (239 out of 650 responses).

5.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member used the Meals on Wheels service.

14% of respondents who completed the questionnaire access this service (87 out of 641 responses).

5.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 563 responses who answered this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (479 responses, **85%**).

Of those who did access the service (84 responses), **64%** used the service daily (54 responses), **32%** used the service weekly (27 responses) and **4%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (3 responses).

5.4 Additional Comments

There were 171 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Dependence

“A lot of the residents depend on this service as a way of remaining in contact with society and gaining a much needed meal. If only a small group will remain receiving the service we may see a negative impact on the local NHS services. I feel reducing the amount of visits per week would be a better way of saving not cutting the whole service”

“I think this is a good idea, however I do worry about those in true need and whether the recipients will be given enough care and help as they are weaned off this service in order to help them acclimatise to buying food items etc.”

Agreement

“Agree in principle for most people due to the savings but what about the vulnerable single elderly who rely on this service... unless this service will be passed through the community care teams instead?”

“As long as people who require assistance with meal preparation are able to get it. Individuals who previously would have been entitled to meals on wheels should have access to a hot meal by other means.”

“As long as the service is still provided, if a saving can be made then it should be made.”

Potential Issues

“Allied Healthcare does not currently provide nutritious meals, only quick snacks. The LA would need to extend the Allied hours so that meal nutritious preparation can be provided by them, which will impact further on the LA's budget. The LA is no doubt aware that cases of malnutrition are increasing in the elderly.”

“As and when is needed i.e. in times of illness or injury if they cannot manage to prepare food. My concern would be that under a new system this would not be available because it will be tested on most in need and an assessment to cover meals on such short notice for a limited period of time would not be cost effective to the service.”

“Carers that come in to the home don't have the time to do this kind of work properly - it'll end up a rush job and they won't get the nutrition needed to stay healthy.”

Suggestions / Alternatives

“An alternative solution would be to charge full cost to anyone not in need of necessary support. Also, local community organisations could possibly provide a similar service locally.”

“BCC agree that the service should be based on needs assessments and not available universally. Many local residents use the service in Bedlinog and Trelewis for the social contact too; therefore there could be an increase in isolation felt by those most at risk. It was felt that there was scope for a social enterprise to develop this service locally to those ineligible for the service at a charge.”

“I have worked with people who received Meals on Wheels in the past and are aware that in many cases it was being used as a way of cutting carer costs. I will be really pleased if this proposal means that carers are given the time to prepare meals for people in their own home.”

Proposal 5: Older Persons Day Centre (Forest Road)

6.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 624 responses to this question with just over half of respondents agreeing to remove the facility at Forest Road and provide alternative services at another location.

56% of responses agreed (352 out of 624 responses).

6.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member used the Forest Road day centre.

8% of respondents who completed the questionnaire access this service (52 out of 617 responses)

6.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 531 responses who answered this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (496 responses, **93%**).

Of those who did access the service (35 responses), **60%** used the service daily (21 responses), **31%** used the service weekly (11 responses) and **9%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (3 responses).

6.4 Additional Comments

There were 130 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Premises / Location

“A location that is designed for the purpose would be more suitable certainly. Again, I have experience working with such service users. From a worker perspective it is harder to do the job if the premises are not suited to the purpose. That will mean that the service users are more at risk.”

“It appears that the service is underused based on the consultation document but does not state where the alternative centre is geographically.”

“Provided they are not expected to travel out of the Treharris area it seems reasonable, however if the Forest Road Day Centre is to remain open I can't see how you expect to save 80K - unless this means staff redundancies”

Social Aspect

“Again, this service is a social lifeline to those who may otherwise not have an alternative social outlet. Relocation simply isn't good enough, as many users will not want to make the transition and would experience additional barriers such as transport.”

“Concerned that everything at the lower end of the borough has to close. Contact with friends locally will be reduced. Increased travel time if group has to move to Merthyr and at 91 years of age this is not easy or fair. Concerned about the knock on effect this move will have for the funding of the boys club in Treharris.”

“I see the day centre every single day and I see how big a difference it makes in peoples lives. There is so much care provided to the service users and it is basically a home from home. For some of these people it can be the only bit of socializing they have and each day they get a hot meal, and participate in activities. Please don't take this away from people just to save money.”

Agreement

“Again, if the alternative is adequate, then there shouldn't be a problem, but systems need to be put in place to ensure that services aren't too strained or oversaturated”

“Providing they have reasonable transport to attend the alternative centre.”

“This would seem upon the limited information given to be a viable/sensible way to make a saving but it would need to be demonstrated that sufficient thought had been put into the overall proposal to demonstrate the long term viability of the proposal and that sufficient account had been taken of additional/specialist transport requirements.”

Disability / Access

“Although I'm sure the alternative provision is more than adequate, my mother has dementia and taking her out of routine and at such a distance would distress & aggravate the condition, also why is the lower end of the valley so poorly prioritised? Why is everything concentrated in Merthyr? This I think is fundamentally unfair.”

“Are people who use this service going to be provided with transport to attend other day care centres?”

“How do the people who use his facility get to the alternative location? If transport is provided, how does this save money???”

Proposal 6: Youth Service

7.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 666 responses to this question with over half of respondents against the potential changes to Youth Services across the County Borough.

Only **41%** of responses agreed to this proposal (271 out of 666 responses).

7.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member accessed Youth Services.

24% of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (157 out of 651 responses)

7.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 580 responses who answered this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (435 responses, **75%**).

Of those who did access the service (145 responses), **36%** used the service daily (52 responses), **54%** used the service weekly (78 responses) and **10%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (15 responses).

7.4 Additional Comments

There were 194 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Transport

“Again not everyone has the transport or funds to travel to youth centres. It is sad that this borough is so well known for its great youth centres and then they will be gone in next few years. Regarding the Information centre, could this not be moved into the library or within the town centre as visitors to the area need the facility?”

“Given the lack of public transport in the evenings, it will be difficult for many young people to access the revised service. Unoccupied youngsters get into trouble!”

“How can this proposal be implemented when the young people of Bedlinog have no means of public transport to the proposed FT youth club which will be outside their geographical area. The Merthyr Tydfil Youth Service will no longer continue "to achieve accredited qualifications well above the national average" (ESTYN 2012 p5) if these part time Youth clubs are closed.”

Cost

“As more and more youth activities diminish young people can't afford to attend youth clubs regularly that charge. Youth clubs that charge should be removed from community first funding and the money redirected in the youth service that provides free service to those most at need so they can have educative activities to increase their chances in life”

“Once again, we constantly hear that the young people of the borough have limited opportunities, and activities to keep them occupied and to develop as individuals yet the council feel it is acceptable to remove a substantial number of resource centres close to these children's' homes. What impact assessments have been made to determine how many young people will now not access such facilities, and what will be the costs of them travelling to facilities further afield”

Increase in Anti-Social Behaviour / Crime

“By closing provision will lead to crime and lack of provision where young people can access confidential advice.”

“Closing localised youth centres will encourage an increase in ASB, reduce support for NEET young people”

“I think the youth club shouldn't close down because I feel safe there, and there will be nowhere for young/teenager people to go in the nights, and maybe people would trash the streets and cause trouble because they will have nowhere to go and they will get boring on the nights”

Agreement

“Concentrating on a larger more efficient provision in buildings that are fit for purpose is the way forward”

“There is no point having youth centres because no one goes there and young people should make their own fun.”

“I agree that youth services need to be consolidated so that standards can be set and maintained across the entire service.”

“I support this as long as adequate provision elsewhere is provided and guaranteed”

Engagement

“Engagement has risen and I feel that, if part time centres close, accessibility will have a negative effect on engagement.”

“I disagree with the above proposal because Youth Services are provided to Youth members to interact and socialise with others. Also youth prevents youngsters from getting into trouble out on the streets in gangs.”

“I have created bonds with youth staff and have been confident enough to speak to them about any issues I faced and so they have an in-depth knowledge of my background and of any support I may need. If the info shop closes and I have to access a different service then the staff there won't have this knowledge so will take time as I will have to explain everything to them in order for them to have to explain everything to them in order for them to have a better idea of the support I need”

Proposal 7: Library Service

8.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 646 responses to this question with over half of respondents in support of potential changes to Library Services.

58% of responses agreed to this proposal (372 out of 646 responses).

8.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member accessed the Library Services.

50% of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (314 out of 629 responses).

8.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 590 responses to this question, approximately half (**51%**) stated how often they used the service (299 responses). The remaining 291 responses (**49%**) choosing Non Applicable as their response.

Of those who did access the service (299 responses), **9%** used the service daily (27 responses), **38%** used the service weekly (115 responses) and **53%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (157 responses).

8.4 Additional Comments

There were 162 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Social

"A library is much more than the knowledge that it provides to the community. It is the only social interaction I get as I live on my own and it gives me a purpose to my day. I use the computers the courses that they run and read the papers and chat. I will be totally isolated without my library"

"Books are important to many generations and also the other services the library offer a community are vital, it's not what many of our forefathers fought for, wake up"

Employment / Education

"A lot of people have to use the library for job search. When it was closed on a Thursday there were other places to go, on a Saturday there isn't."

"Children are being encouraged to read, Merthyr education department have invested in the "read, write,inc" scheme which can only be enhanced by library services. The mobile library is an initiative used by my daughter's school on a weekly basis. She looks forward to the visit and choosing a good book to read. What better way to develop her independence skills and confidence for future life. What a shame there has to be such a negative attitude to learning."

"Hopefully the needs of school children haven't been overlooked"

In Support / Suggestions

"As long as people can access a library at suitable times I see no problem with this. And as long as the housebound also get books delivered."

"As long as they are not completely closed."

"As long as the older generation are not going to lose their bus passes which will stop them travelling free to their relevant library"

"Can the service not be streamlined even further? The current library service is totally outdated in a modern day society and exists only as a non-essential luxury for a very small number of users when considered as a % of the boroughs total population"

Accessibility

"By doing this you are limiting people's availability to the library. For instance, if someone works until late in the evening and would like to use the library and/or cannot get access to the central library on the Saturdays they will be no longer able to use the service. This is not consistent with trying to get people to read and use the library more."

“Closing libraries at 6 pm is ok. However, closing libraries on Saturdays can mean that people who work full-time during the week will no longer have access to the libraries. Could the libraries be closed e.g. on a Monday instead of a Saturday?”

“Closing libraries on Saturdays will remove a service for people of all ages. As someone who works full time, closing this service will affect the people who can access the service.”

Proposal 8: Community Centres

9.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 606 responses to this question with over half of respondents in support of potential changes to the way in which the Community Centres in Dowlais and Gurnos are managed.

65% of responses agreed to this proposal (393 out of 606 responses).

9.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member accessed the Community Centres.

Only **17%** of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (100 out of 589 responses).

9.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 528 responses to this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (441 responses, **84%**).

Of those who did access the service (87 responses), **31%** used the service daily (27 responses), **44%** used the service weekly (38 responses) and **25%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (22 responses).

9.4 Additional Comments

There were 66 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page

Agreement

"A Flying Start centre will be value for money plus alternative at Penydre acceptable. Dowlais acceptable if asset transfer to Community First"

"By the community coming together and running services needed it will ensure continuity to the most vulnerable within our community."

"Community groups benefit. Makes sense to me."

"Other areas have not got this level of provision, and one aim of MTCBC was to provide equal services to all citizens. These proposals make sense and provisions will still continue if those communities value them."

Suggestions

"Flying start already have provision in "Funtazia" situated in ICC & PCH. Provision of F/S also exists in Gurnos Nursery; St Aloysius also "Busy Bees", GalonUchaf have F/S provision. This proposal and use of Gurnos Community Centre should accommodate a Welsh medium pre-school provision as there are only 2 Welsh medium F/s provisions in the whole of Merthyr Tydfil CBC. This facility has to accommodate a Welsh medium setting as there is none in the area. Also voluntary organisations can accommodate F/S services without little or any cost to the council. There is no Welsh medium day nursery in Merthyr something that has been proposed by a group and refused"

"I would only agree to this if measures were put in place to provide a Community Centre in the areas by community groups or similar groups."

"The very community that needs to improve its physical health will be asked to visit the local school (where many do not have associated happy memories!) And to show all just why they are attending..... a lack of foresight and understanding for those who are in this position. In theory the transferring of Dowlais Community Centre to one of the suggested groups would make sense for the local community to have true control over local delivery BUT this not either an "easy" fix or a "cheap" fix; if done correctly to ensure long term viability intense additional support would be needed by the group taking over service delivery."

Safeguarding

"How can Gurnos gym be in Penydre? Surely there are some safeguarding issues there"

"I cannot see where the gym would be situated at Pen y Dre School and if so how could this be accessed during the day. Unauthorised persons on the premises will pose a security risk. As I do not use the gym I do not know if it is currently available throughout the day. Will there be access issues on weekends etc?"

“With this one you need to think of the safety of the pupils that go to Penydre High School because if you think about anyone could enter the community centre and anything could happen to one of those pupils”

Proposal 9: Tourist Information Centre

10.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 726 responses to this question with over half of respondents in support of potential changes and closure to the Tourist Information Centre.

64% of responses agreed to this proposal (466 out of 726 responses).

10.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member accessed the Community Centres.

37% of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (254 out of 696 responses).

10.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 624 responses to this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (414 responses, **66%**).

Of those who did access the service (210 responses), **10%** used the service daily (21 responses), **27%** used the service weekly (57 responses) and **63%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (132 responses).

10.4 Additional Comments

There were 179 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Heritage / History

“A set back to encouraging visitors to this important industrial heritage town, once lost almost impossible to return such a facility. The future of our town is strongly linked to our past.”

“How does the council intend promoting the borough's assets and highlights in the town centre where visitors are likely to first arrive at?”

“I feel it is so short sighted of the council to close such a facility when Merthyr is a historical town and based at the entrance of the Brecon National Park.”

Agreement

“Again I don't want to lose any of our services but we need to be realistic and ensure an alternative provision at other venues are provided to the community.”

“All businesses / front line services can promote tourism and welcome visitors - support is just needed to deliver this first step”

“As long as tourist information is still available easily for visitors then using another existing service is a sensible idea. But would that service book accommodation for visitors? This could be a good income for the Council so should remain.”

“Civic centre is best choice as it is central and tourists are more likely to think of going there for info.”

“I have never seen anybody in there and I am often in the town area. I think people would be more interested in looking at information if it was at a tourist attraction such as Cyfarthfa Castle and feel this is a good proposal to take place”

Accessibility

“Cyfarthfa castle to be used not the civic centre which is not open on bank holidays and weekends. Also, in build some information at the libraries which will remain open”

“How will locals and visitors find out information about the town and area?”

“I find the service absolutely necessary to my Travel in the UK. I have no access to a computer and the closure of the service would seriously hamper my travel and lead to deterioration in my quality of life.”

Other Implications

"I agree with closing the Town Centre TIC as it is not well used and alternatives which attract tourists such as Cyfarthfa are available. Parc Taf Bargoed TIC is critical to tourism in the South of the Borough and will be hugely detrimental to the economy of the area if closed and is probably integral to a number of large funding applications in the area."

"I find the staff are very helpful when I need to book a coach to visit my daughter in London"

Proposal 10: Public Conveniences

11.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 625 responses to this question with over half of respondents in support of potential changes and closure to some Public Conveniences throughout the County Borough.

62% of respondents agreed to this proposal (389 out of 625 responses).

11.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member accessed the Public Conveniences.

Nearly half (**45%**) of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (272 out of 599 responses).

11.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 546 responses to this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (316 responses, **58%**).

Of those who did access the service (230 responses), **16%** used the service daily (37 responses), **43%** used the service weekly (99 responses) and **41%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (94 responses).

11.4 Additional Comments

There were **118** additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Agreement

"I agree with this proposal because the public conveniences are in poor condition anyway"

"I'll be glad to see the toilets closed in town (bus station) to keep the druggies away. Hopefully they will take/use drugs in their own homes!!"

Suggestions

"Agree to town and Dowlais closures but not Pontsticill due to the remote area being used by walkers, outdoor services etc."

"Are there alternative toilet facilities in Pontsticill, if not would the council consider keeping this one open, it is used by many cyclists and walkers."

"They are not just 'conveniences', for some people like myself they are a must."

"Ask shops to sign up for a toilet access scheme. Can't really believe we spend this much on public toilets!"

"Has anyone approached Stagecoach as a Company to invest in the Bus Station Toilets?"

"I believe that Merthyr Library's facilities should be available for public use"

Disability

"A suitable disabled toilet should be maintained in the Town Centre"

"Having conveniences in a central place next to the bus station is a really important resource for many older persons, parents with young children or disabled persons who may need to access facilities regularly, may have mobility issues"

"I am concerned for my disabled mother"

"I have a health condition which I need to use this service when I go shopping and it will be an issue to me in getting to them when I need them quickly."

"I have a disabled 2 year old daughter with a stomach complaint - it would not be possible for her to wait from the bus station to the upstairs market to go to the toilet."

"I was born with one kidney if I need to go to the toilet I need to go ASAP"

Elderly

“Will you be closing the disabled toilets? The elderly and infirmed cannot walk to the Old Town Hall or to the Market facility as they are too far.”

“Older people arriving by or waiting for buses need the facility.”

“People need these especially small children and elderly”

Proposal 11: Concessionary Fares

12.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 658 responses to this question with just over half of respondents against the potential removal of Concessionary Fares.

Only **49%** of responses agreed to this proposal (321 out of 658 responses).

12.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member utilised the Concessionary Fares school transport.

34% of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (213 out of 628 responses)

12.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 555 responses who answered this question, the majority stated Not Applicable (353 responses, **64%**).

Of those who did access the service (202 responses), **93%** used the service daily (52 responses), **5%** used the service weekly (11 responses) and **2%** only accessed the service on a monthly basis (3 responses).

12.4 Additional Comments

There were 199 additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page

Agreement

"The removal of this service will not affect the education provision; therefore it makes sense that this is a good proposal"

"Walking to school should be encouraged as part of healthy living"

Ideas and Suggestions

"Concessionary fares could be limited to winter time"

"Why not charge a more economically realistic price for the service?"

Safety

"Child safety should be paramount. Making children walk during dark early mornings can be very dangerous."

"The health of young people and children will suffer if they are sitting in classrooms all day wet"

"Maybe it could still be offered during the winter terms."

"How will the borough ensure that ALL routes are safe, well lit, well maintained and accessible throughout the year, whatever the weather?"

"Has the council conducted a safe route assessment on this route?"

Impact on Education

"The impact of this would be on school attendance. This is likely to drop as families would not make the effort to take their children to school or walk the distance required if there is no money for full bus fare"

"Unfortunately not all school children have parents who will or can get up every day and take them to school- these are the children who will suffer"

"There will be more bunking absenteeism and lateness"

"We are already in special measures and any service linked to education, including giving pupils the best opportunity to attend school each day has to be protected."

Cost

“Can't afford increased costs, and will affect my ability to get to work on time”

“Education is a right not a privilege for those who can afford it.”

“Because their parents just can't afford £3.20! I work and definitely couldn't afford that every time it rained!”

“It's compulsory to provide 3-16 education in Britain; some parents can't afford 60p a day. £3 a week turns into £90 pound a school year, which is an expense most families can't afford to pay”

Proposal 12: School Transport - Post 16 Provision

13.1 Agreement with the Proposal

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal outlined in the questionnaire.

There were 753 responses to this question with the vast majority of respondents against the removal of post 16 transport.

Only **19%** of responses agreed to this proposal (145 out of 753 responses).

13.2 Personal or Family Member usage

Individuals completing the survey were asked if they or a family member utilised the post 16 school transport service.

46% of respondents who completed the questionnaire stated that they do access this service (336 out of 727 responses)

13.3 Usage

In order to determine the usage of the service being provided, respondents who completed the survey were asked to state how often they used this service. Options included *Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Not Applicable*.

Of the 654 responses who answered this question, half stated Not Applicable (**50%**, 329 of 654 responses).

Of those who did access the service (329 responses), **97%** used the service daily (320 responses), **2%** used the service weekly (8 responses) and only 1 respondent accessed the service on a monthly basis (>**1%**).

13.4 Additional Comments

There were **431** additional comments for this proposal from the public.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading on the next page.

Agreement

"A lot of money being saved"

"Agree with this proposal provided that the service is maintained for those not within walking distance of the school."

"College students get their own allowances now and should pay for their transport out of their own money it will also help them to budget."

Suggestions

"Council could consider keeping the transport service but charging for a termly pass at a charge that is below public transport rate."

"Means test low income families, rather than a blanket refusal of service".

"Bus/train passes for students could be limited to 5 day use rather than open ended ones or offered for a small fee towards the cost."

Welsh Language

"There will clearly be a hugely negative impact if this proposal is upheld, not just on Ysgol Rhydywaun but on the future of Welsh medium provision within the borough"

"The council is discriminating against pupils who attend Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, and also pupils who speak welsh."

"However children in welsh schools will suffer far more! Unless the option of taking A levels through welsh at colleges is available then it's fair to say welsh speakers are being discriminated against!"

"This will have a knock on effect to local welsh medium primary schools along with the use of the Welsh medium language in the area."

"If you take this away it could be against their European law right and could open up a case for compensation claims costing more than what it would save"

Effect on Attainment/ Future Unemployment

"It will lead to pupils not attending post 16 education, more young people becoming unemployed and will further the low aspiration of the area"

"The youth of Merthyr Tydfil has a poor reputation, it's a reputation unlikely to change by you jeopardising their ability to better themselves through education."

“Attendance is a key measure for banding schools in Wales...how will this affect Merthyr Council's standing as being fit to run education services in their authority if attendance drops across schools, which it enviably will?”

“This negative repercussions long term of such a decision would be immense. Higher youth unemployment rates, higher percentages of children and young people becoming NEET, lower aspirations etc.”

Transport Links

“Before the council propose such a cut in this provision they should look at the less than adequate public transport facilities within the borough”

“Extremely poor transport links”

Costs

“College students already struggle to pay for their equipment, with EMA being removed; they would not be able to pay for transport leaving them to not get an education”

“The government has clearly stated the need to close the gap between children who live in poverty and achievement-if they have to pay they won't and the gap will widen.”

“Education should be a right for all and the poorer families without transport and the means to get their children to school any other way should not be discriminated against in this way.”

Additional Information

14.1 Other Considerations and Suggestions

Individuals completing the survey were asked which other council services should be considered to be reduced or delivered differently.

There were **199** responses to this question with many people suggesting alternatives.

There were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading below.

Collaboration

“Collaboration with other LA in delivering back office, HR, payroll, etc. This will allow more resources for front line services which is what the public want and what they actually see.”

“I think the council needs to look at its internal costs and identify particularly where services provided or internal functions can be shared with other councils in the area. See also comments below about looking to raise money from services to support others.”

Strategic Review

“A full strategic review to ensure that ALL departments adopt both leaner but also smarter delivery of services both internally and externally. The outsourcing of some specialist services (to ethical Living Wage employers) should not only be investigated but shared with the public to prove that all avenues are being investigated.”

“All services and staff within those services should be reviewed.”

“All services should be reviewed to ensure they are necessary and provided efficiently but to a high standard.”

“The focus again is on frontline services. I think the public should be shown actually how many tiers of management have been removed from the over heavy council structure.”

Alternatives

“Any events run such as fete and gala days at Cyfarthfa. Christmas event could also be rescaled. The Mayors car and Chauffeur. Less Councillors. Change procurement procedures.”

“Any services which do not have an effect on the future of our young and care of the elderly. Look at reducing wage bills by reducing overtime. Consider increasing Christmas Holidays for schools to three weeks and reducing

summer holidays to 5 weeks in order to reduce energy costs. Cut down on paper and printing costs. Reduce number of councillors and become a more cost-effective council."

"Anything OTHER than anything to do with youth or education. Perhaps stop building new shops and developing our retail because we have ENOUGH clothes shops. We live between Cardiff and Swansea we're ok for shopping."

"Benefits. There are many people cheating the system and claiming benefits illegally in the town. Chasing these individuals could save the borough a fortune."

"Could refuse and recycling services work shifts so that the council would need less lorries as they could be used twice daily instead of all being out in the mornings."

"Highways, public buildings, street and school lighting and associated energy costs should be rigidly monitored to ensure efficiency controls are maintained"

14.2 Additional Comments

Members of the public completing the questionnaire were asked if they had any additional comments they would like to make.

There were **197** comments received. Once again there were several common themes that ran through the comments. There are suggested groupings and example comments under each heading below.

Changes to Services

"Why are you going ahead with a bowling alley with a spend in excess of £1million when you are having to make so many cuts?"

"There are many areas in which money can be saved, much of which could be achieved by better management of existing resources within the council. For example, recycling bins (WOW boxes and food waste bins) were recently delivered around the borough, not by area, but by alphabetical street order meaning teams needed to cross back and forth across the town. On top of that, houses with names instead of numbers were delivered to separately, requiring further journeys. With this in mind I find it hard to believe that the council is able to effectively manage the resources that it have been entrusted to it."

"We ALL know that we face difficult financial times - the Council is not different to the individuals that they serve but there are ways and means, be more innovative, use technology to empower and reduce workload as opposed to increasing bureaucracy, combine delivery of services, ask staff and public but in a meaningful way and the not only listen but taken action against the answers given!. Do not "hit" the easy options, look at the longer

term impacts of your decisions, make a stand and stick to the promises that you have already made; ensure that the correct information is given - that the settlement from the Westminster Government is not fair, just or acceptable!"

"The council should look to opportunities to raise money from some services. Tourism and marketing Merthyr's history should be a key part of the strategy and I think the council should look to project a more positive image of the town and consider innovative solutions to deliver - for example could a central tourism facility be delivered jointly with a town centre business or could it sell tickets to attractions (e.g. Mountain Railway) for a commission?"

School Transport

"Very understanding of the need to reduce spending, and support the majority of the proposals. But removing free transport would be a short sighted proposal."

"I strongly believe that proposals 11 and 12 will provide serious blows to the development of the Welsh Language in the borough. This will mean that the Council WILL NOT provide educational services equally to all citizens. The language situation is vulnerable in the area and needs to be treated as such. The people of the Taff Bargoed valley have to send their children far to receive a Welsh language education and are much less likely to do so if they have to pay for transportation. Surely it is a right, for even the predominantly English speaking people of Merthyr, to be able to choose their child's school and not be influenced by the cost of transport?"

"This decision to withdraw transport clearly contradicts the Welsh Assembly Government's plans to safeguard and develop Welsh Medium education."

Others

"This authority needs to maintain its credibility by continuing to provide good innovative community services to vulnerable people and meet their statutory responsibilities to keep people safe, well and independent for as long as possible."

"We are a small authority and I would be in favour of merging with another authority and thereby saving duplicate management salaries"

"I understand that cuts have to be made in order to retain a lot of services for the borough... however why in the past has the council moved out of an historic building... Built a new civic centre (which wasn't even fit for purpose from day one)... and now spend £000's on a full revamp of the civic centre, moved premises to Pentrebach how much did this cost? I work within the town centre in a small business and we have to make do with the facilities we have and pay extortionate business rates for the pleasure to... The Council needs to stop and think with all spending not just cut facilities etc. for the young and old of Merthyr"

About You

15.1 Personal Information

Upon completing the questionnaire, respondents were asked if they would like to complete the personal information section.

Respondents were asked if they thought each proposal would affect them due to belonging to a certain protected characteristic.

Results are displayed in the table below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Your Gender	17	6	8	6	12	10	4	5	4	14	7	23	116
Your Gender Identity	9	6	5	4	6	14	5	4	3	2	11	21	90
Your Age	53	16	14	35	44	32	22	21	11	21	34	78	381
Your Ethnicity	14	9	7	6	6	16	7	7	8	4	9	32	125
Your Disability	19	32	28	14	22	13	11	13	5	16	11	21	205
Your Sexuality	10	3	6	2	5	13	5	4	1	6	4	9	68
Your Religion	10	5	5	4	8	7	5	5	3	1	9	22	84
Your Marital Status	16	7	4	4	6	6	4	3	3	2	8	12	75
Your Pregnancy	11	5	2	1	3	5	2	2	5	4	9	18	67
Your Language	20	7	7	4	7	13	10	8	10	6	53	221	366
TOTAL	179	96	86	80	119	129	75	72	53	76	155	457	-

Figure 2: Protected Characteristics

From the table we can see that “Proposal 12 - Post 16 School Transport” has the highest number of responses due protected characteristics (**457**). This was followed by “Proposal 1 - Healthy Ageing Programme” and “Proposal 11 - Concessionary Fares” (**179** and **155** responses respectively).

In regards to protected characteristics, we can see that many people stated that the 12 proposals would have the largest impact upon themselves due to their age (**381** responses) This was very closely followed by an individual’s language (**366** responses) and having a disability (**205** responses).

15.2 Respondents Capacity

Respondents to the questionnaire were asked in what capacity they were responding to the questionnaire.

There were **633** responses to this question and the results are displayed in the table on the next page.

Capacity	Responses
Individual	511 (81%)
Member of Staff	69 (11%)
Stakeholder	14 (2%)
Other	39 (6%)
TOTAL	633 Responses

Figure 3: Respondents Capacity

15.3 Contact Details

Respondents were also asked if they would like to leave their personal contact details.

- **220** individuals completed their Name
- **181** individuals completed their Email address
- **171** individuals completed the Address section

Consultation Leaflets

Proposal 1 - Healthy Ageing Programme

1.1 Number of Responses

There were **2** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

1.2 Support of the Proposal

There were no leaflets in support of the proposal and **2** were not in support of the proposal (**100%**).

1.3 Comments

"We realise that cuts have to be made and the Council budget. We are however concerned about how they will affect older people with cuts in Age concern services & meals on wheels. We also worry about young children having to walk to school on dark winter morning of there are no free buses. Are there no other ways of making savings?"

Proposal 2–Learning Disability Care Homes

2.1 Number of Responses

There were **5** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

2.2 Support of the Proposal

1 leaflet was in support of the proposal (**20%**) and **4** were not in support of the proposal (**80%**).

2.3 Comments

“The wording of this proposal suggest that the people making decisions do not know the clients as the ladies have profound and multiple learning disabilities. The ladies are very vulnerable. This proposal will not give a true reflection to the general public; When in just 14 days rallied together to sign a 4,000+ petition to ensure that: The most vulnerable members of our community continue to benefit from the best quality of life that can be expected given their exceptional individual circumstances”

“Once again the care homes at Park View and Glendere are being targeted with budget cuts which are against the most vulnerable groups in our community who are unable to fight their corner. Deregistration of the Care Homes will eventually over a period of time result in a lower standard of care which would have a profound effect on the current residents wellbeing. Furthermore a possible reduction or change in staff would have a similar outcome.. The selection of areas for budget cuts should be based on the ability of those selected to absorb the effects of the cuts and still discharge its duties with the minimum effect. This is why the top 3-4 high spend areas are usually selected for budget cuts - See "Parteo Analysis”

“I am again asking for your support to ensure that services at Park View and Glendere remain unchanged. The wording of the efficiencies consultation 2014-2015 does not give a true insight of the residents: All have profound and multi learning disabilities’ am concerned that the decision making will be by people who have not met the ladies and were not involved at the time when the best interest assessment was made. May I remind you of the 4,000 + strong petition which was gathered in just 14 days to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community continue to benefit from the best quality of life that can be expected, given their exceptional circumstances. The £22,000 saving per annum between both homes is minimal in contrast to the risks that these cuts will have on the residents. There is medical evidence supporting the argument that changes to carers can have fatal consequences’ know that the proposal outlines that the current care will remain but you cannot guarantee this if staff wages are threatened, which could be a reality if they do not remain in Council employment. The bond between my sister and the carers is obvious. After all, some of the carers have been caring for her for over 30 years. Continuity of care and my sister's health and wellbeing is under

threat from this proposal. Why do the cuts have to be made at the baseline and not higher up where the knock-on effect can be absorbed? May I enquire about agency staff costs and whether savings could be made here? The ladies already enjoy sufficient trips and I understand that they already have transport that they fund themselves. How does the movement away from residential care for people with learning disabilities towards supporting housing services allow my sister and the other ladies to live more independent lives? They already have everything they need and are living in a trusted environment with carers who they depend on to keep them safe know these ladies personally and they do not want any changes to the current configuration. Please can you bear this in mind when you decide on this proposal as you are my only hope to ensure that my sister is unharmed?"

Proposal 3 – Children with Disabilities

3.1 Number of Responses

There were **0** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

Proposal 4–Meals on Wheels

4.1 Number of Responses

There were **99** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

4.2 Support of the Proposal

There were no leaflets in support of the proposal and **99** were not in support of the proposal (**100%**).

4.3 Comments

“I am 85 years of age and cannot get about the house without a Zimmer frame due to arthritis and hip trouble; therefore I cannot cook or carry anything. I am totally dependent on meals on wheels and therefore would like you to reconsider. I would not object to a slight increase in cost. Also I live alone.”

“I am disgusted with the council for what they are doing to the MOW service the elderly really look forward to their hot meal a day for some their only meal and contact with anybody. Surely should be looking after the elderly and supporting them to stay in their own homes. The staff have put everything into keeping this service going for the last 2 1/2 years working with a skeleton staff which has been hard going, but we know how important this service is to vulnerable people of the valley.”

“I am 88 years old and not in good health. I have various health problems and impaired eye sight due to macular regeneration. My family live too far away to help and I have to rely on myself which is becoming increasingly difficult. I have meals on wheels five times a week and if these are to be stopped I really would not be able to manage. I am really worried about it and sincerely hope that something can be done”

“I would very much regret you not providing meals on wheels as my wife and I really rely on them. I am 92 years of age and my wife is 91. I would not favour anybody coming into make a meal for us as we value the little independence we still have and also feel it would be an invasion of our privacy which I would not feel comfortable with. Meals on wheels is an excellent service and we would sorely miss this service. Is there some other way you can look at to keep on offering the service? We are prepared to pay more if we have to!”

“I am concerned about meals on wheels being stopped, I am disabled and housebound and live alone and I rely on meals on wheels for my one hot meal a day, as I cannot cook for myself because of my disablement. I have been having meals on wheels for the past six years and would like to still have them if it is possible.”

“Both my parents rely on the Meals on Wheels Services. They can no longer use a cooker due to dementia so Meals on Wheels provides them with a hot

meal and gives me peace of mind that at least one of their meals is taken care of. My dad in particular does not respond well to change so if this service is taken away and replaced by another it will impact on his behaviour and mental health. Meals on Wheels is a great service so please do not take it away."

"I am an ex-services man I have paid my dues and taxes. I don't see that when I'm in need I am being penalised. I also know that some older service users, who have meals on wheels, only have contact with the meals on wheels delivery driver and only have one meal a day."

"I strongly disagree with the proposal to abolish Meals on Wheels. This will affect the most vulnerable in our Local area. The most affected will be the elderly, the incapacitated and the immobile. A decision to go ahead with this will cause many problems for those concerned and those who care for them. Helping prepare meals will not solve the problem of preparing diets, shopping for ingredients etc. Also you will take away independence from certain groups. I hope you will reconsider what could be considered a cruel proposal."

Proposal 5–Older Persons’ Day Centre (Forest Road)

5.1 Number of Responses

There were 7 leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

5.2 Support of the Proposal

There were no leaflets in support of the proposal and 7 were not in support of the proposal (100%).

5.3 Comments

“I currently attend Forest Road Day Centre. By closing this centre I would lose my service and I cannot travel to the new site which is in Merthyr. It would mean that I would be stuck in the house, lost with all my worries. I will also lose all my close friends that I have made over the last 5 years at the Day Centre. We will also lose our staff that we have got very good relationships with.”

“I currently attend Forest Road Day Centre. Before I started I was isolated stuck at home alone. I have built up good friendships with the clients and the staff and it upsets me the thought of travelling to the top of Merthyr to a place I don't know and clients don't know.”

“The day Centre in Forest road is fantastic; the staff are caring and genuinely enjoy what they do. My late father in law used this service and it was the only time he left the house. Also, it will have a knock on effect on the Boys Club as it generates rent for them. Treharris Meithrin is relocating there from our existing building and having a 30k of capital funds spend on it. If the Day Centre closes and the Boys Club shuts what happens to the Meithrin?”

“The closure of the day centre at the Boys and Girls Club in Treharris will make it much more difficult for the patients to travel so far. For example the picking up will make the journey much longer. The loss of the rent for the club will also make it difficult for their finances.”

“We know that there has to be cuts in services. But why close the forest road day centre? There are 3 of these day centres in Merthyr, so why not close one of them? We feel we do not belong to the Merthyr Borough, everything goes to Merthyr. I wonder how much council tax is paid by the residents of Edwardsville, Quakers Yard, Treharris and Trelewis and Bedlinog. What do we get in return?! If the day centre closes, the boys & girls club will close no youth clubs for the Treharris area!”

Proposal 6–Youth Service

6.1 Number of Responses

There were **83** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

6.2 Support of the Proposal

3 leaflets were in support of the proposal (**4%**) and **80** were not in support of the proposal (**96%**).

6.3 Comments

“Although I understand the need to cut costs in this financial climate, the obliteration of the youth service as we know it is shameful. Merthyr Tydfil has always been synonymous with poor education and criminality but in recent years those working in the youth service have done an integral job in giving the young people of this Borough opportunities and safety that they may not find in other areas of their life. Closure of youth clubs along with poor access to transport in certain areas will lead to the dark days of vandalism and criminality associated with the Borough.”

“Dear whoever is reading this, do you really feel the need to deprive young people of a warm environment. I myself would like to develop skills of baby sitting and my peers have. We have developed skills of glass painted bird houses painted and be aware of the use of drugs! Imagine if we stopped having that information think you could think of the results of that. Are you thinking of the children or money. Were you young once? What if you had your school funds taken away from you, you wouldn't be who you are today are you building us up to be failures?”

“Youths are less likely to use out of their town services which would result in them probably hanging around town with no direction in their lives. Why change a success story? From what I've been told the existing service is working successfully.”

“The information shop is a place for young people to meet up and learn valuable life skills such as employability skills, sexual health information, drug and alcohol information, budgeting skills and many more. By closing the youth provisions will have a bad effect on the effected young people, and could cause trouble as there wouldn't be anything available for young people to access. I don't think these proposals have been thought of in enough detail and the consequences of proceeding with the procedures.”

“If going out in the streets and not being in a nice warm and welcoming youth I will not be happy. I have joined The Information Shop Youth Club; I have met some fantastic, helpful and kind people. It brings people off the streets and brings people together. There are some people who need help with some

information like learning on the pregnancy information, stop smoking, not taking drugs and also other information.”

“Yes why not get funding elsewhere in the long run it will cost more if we need more policing when bored kids gather round street corners and shopping centres”

“I have been to various things the youth have put on in Aberfan every year. They put on a show for the Derby & Joan and other groups of elderly people. They wait on the people, sit and chat about themselves and listen to us boring oldies. The youth are special it would be a shame to deny them their Centres where else will they go? £92k over 2 years, not a lot, really. I'm sure the Council waste more than that in 2 years.”

“I have been going to the Information Shop since it opened in 2006 and over the years I have received a lot of help for many things and I want other young people to receive similar help to what I've had. I'd rather not see the Information Shop close because it has been very helpful over the years. I meet with friends and I use the computer room because I do not have internet access at home. I use the computer room to gain access to the internet for Facebook and other networking sites.”

Proposal 7–Library Service

7.1 Number of Responses

There were 7 leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

7.2 Support of the Proposal

1 leaflets was in support of the proposal (14%) and 6 were not in support of the proposal (86%).

7.3 Comments

“I live at 44 Anthony Hill Court, Pentrebach and I use the library van every week. I think it provides a wonderful service to our community, as all the children here and a lot of people like myself always use it. David the librarian is very helpful and if you need a particular book (even the children) he always comes up trumps. To get rid of these mobile libraries would be a backward step as people like myself cannot get to the library in town because of health issues and I think to take it away would be very bad for the whole community of Merthyr, particularly the children who use this service as they obviously would have to rely on parents who work to take them for their books and can't because of their working hours. It would be a great disadvantage for these children who want to learn.”

“I'm a pensioner with a disability. The library van is a godsend I don't want to go to town often and if I do the walk to the central library would be difficult. This is a great service with pleasant friendly staff who go out of their way to help you. I love reading and it would be a great loss to me.”

“These proposals will not affect me or my husband in any way. Proposal 7 I am amazed at the savings to be made by entailing the library service and surprised that it hasn't been looked at before. The current trend for kindles etc. would eliminate a lot of younger people going to libraries anyway.”

“Due to severe health problems heart and pulmonary fibrosis my mobility is very limited. I am unable to visit the library in town due to walking distance and Dowlais library due to the steps and the road from car park being too steep. I find the mobile library on Saturday in Pentrebach fantastic. The librarian Mr. David Thomas is outstanding, always helping me to choose books because my eyesight is poor. I will miss the facility terrible. It is one place I am able to visit and enjoy the amenities.”

“It is important to support elderly persons in the community more than younger persons I think. It is not until you are old that you realise how important these services are to the elderly. A good Library service is essential to the community. Many people including myself have benefited from the Library Service in terms of entertainment, employment and self-education. Library opening hours should be set to suit users of the service. A survey of

users should be undertaken to identify when the library service is most used and the hours set accordingly. In my young days the central library was only open 10am to 12pm on Saturdays! This reflected the time most people wished to use the service."

"I am a carer for my wife and find the mobile library ideal to suit our needs. Without this facility my wife will lose a lot of her enjoyment as this is one of the few pleasures she has in her life."

Proposal 8–Community Centres

8.1 Number of Responses

There were 4 leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

8.2 Support of the Proposal

There were no leaflets in support of the proposal and 4 were not in support of the proposal (100%).

8.3 Comments

“We are a group of women called “Scanty Pantys” who use Pant Annex every week for Healthy Eating, Rumba and weighing. It is also used for other groups in the Dowlais Area. We'd be lost without it. We are a group of 27 women aged 19 to 70 plus. We've built up from 5 women to 27 over 2 years. We got nowhere else to go. Please here our pleas and let us keep Pant Annex”

“Please keep the funding coming for our group. We come to this exercise class to lose weight and to keep healthy; we are aged between 70 down to 19. We are keeping fit so perhaps we won't develop diabetes etc. through our weight so want cost the Health Service so much money. We've worked hard to get our healthy eating and Zumba group together and we've also had funding to help pay for it all. We're also losing weight and feeling better for the exercise and we look forward to meeting every Monday. We're a group of women aged between 19 and 70 yrs. and we are really disappointed to know that it's coming to an end. The food provided encourages us to eat more healthy and gives us useful information and knowledge on how healthy eating can improve our wellbeing. With the recipes and information provided by (Karen Powell) we can make new meals that are good for us all. This group started with 8 members now it's 28.”

Proposal 9–Tourist Information Centre

9.1 Number of Responses

There were **2** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

9.2 Support of the Proposal

There were no leaflets in support of the proposal and **2** were not in support of the proposal (**100%**).

9.3 Comments

“The school bus charges are terrible for parents with children going to both Welsh Medium and English medium schools. Your policy is placing a terrible burden on these families. Shame on MTCBC. The meals on wheels service should not be touched as this gives a vital service to those housebound people a source of comfort in both sustenance and a means of communication outside their front door. The threatened closure of the TIC near the bus station does not make any sense as it is the only TIC that made a profit last year £44,000 shame on MTCBC!”

Proposal 10–Public Convenience

10.1 Number of Responses

There were **13** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

10.2 Support of the Proposal

1 leaflets was in support of the proposal (**8%**) and **12** were not in support of the proposal (**92%**).

10.3 Comments

“These proposals will not affect me or my husband in any way. Proposal 7 I am amazed at the savings to be made by entailing the library service and surprised that it hasn't been looked at before. The current trend for kindles etc would eliminate a lot of younger people going to libraries anyway. The older generation like myself would go in the week anyway. Proposal 10 Closing to WC in Pontsticill could be detrimental to the tourists/walkers who use the area especially in the summer months. We need to encourage visitors to our beauty spots. The other WC's will not be missed. Proposal 11 it is not clear how money will be saved by removing places. Will transport still be provided to those children not within walking distance? Website does not provide a satisfactory explanation!!”

“The closure of the day centre at the Boys and Girls Club in Treharris will make it much more difficult for the patients to travel so far. For example the picking up will make the journey much longer. The loss of the rent for the club will also make it difficult for their finances. The closure of the toilets at the bus station is a big mistake, what about the people who have to change buses, the new toilets in the market are very nice, but too far to go when the time is limited. Also, long distance buses arrive and depart from the station, where have you known of a bus station without a toilet? As - NEVER! It seems the only people who are not facing a cut are the councillors - their pay or expenses.”

“I think to close meals on wheels will be a disadvantage to older people as some rely on the meal as it could be the only one they have in the day plus the fact they see someone to talk to for a few seconds in the day another thing I think closing the public conveniences at Pontsticill is a big mistake as in the summer we have a lot of tourists.”

“I am currently employed as part time toilet attendant at Pontsticill toilets opening times 31-03 to 31st August. Pontsticill is a picturesque village which is set in the Brecon Beacons National Park. It has numerous visitors of all nationalities many of which enjoy outdoor activities also visitors of all ages from surrounding area. It would be very unreasonable if the local authority cannot provide this very necessary facility. I do hope that we will be able to continue to do so. Please give this matter your kind consideration”

“The closure of the town centre public conveniences at the bus station would cause huge devastation to the public and business environment at the bus area. The toilets are regularly used often to full capacity, making it an essential need for them to remain open. The toilets service local needs and of course the visitors to the town that use the public transport and taxis to and from the bus station area. Also with the huge emphasis forthcoming on tourism it will be very embarrassing for visitors not being able to use the toilet facilities that are already in place to serve the bus station users and businesses 'especially the disabled'. There is also tenants/leaseholders and staff of the businesses that form part of the building being able to trade.”

“Public Conveniences - Will they be open early in the mornings and late in the afternoons e.g. 8am and 5pm not at 9am when the market opens?”

Proposal 11–Concessionary Fares

11.1 Number of Responses

There were **12** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

11.2 Support of the Proposal

1 leaflet was in support of the proposal (**8%**) and **11** were not in support of the proposal (**92%**).

11.3 Comments

“Both my children are currently attending YsgolSantesTudful. Eventually they will both be attending Rhydywaun. How exactly do the Government expect the children to attend this school if they take off the buses? The Government are quick enough in promoting the Welsh Language, well how about supporting it then?”

“The school bus charges are terrible for parents with children going to both Welsh Medium and English medium schools. Your policy is placing a terrible burden on these families. Shame on MTCBC. The meals on wheels service should not be touched as this gives a vital service to those housebound people a source of comfort in both sustenance and a means of communication outside their front door. The threatened closure of the TIC near the bus station does not make any sense as it is the only TIC that made a profit last year £44,000 shame on MTCBC!”

“Proposal 11 it is not clear how money will be saved by removing places. Will transport still be provided to those children not within walking distance? Website does not provide a satisfactory explanation!!”

Proposal 12–School Transport – Post 16 Provision

12.1 Number of Responses

There were **946** leaflets received from members of the public during the consultation process.

12.2 Support of the Proposal

1 leaflet was in support of the proposal and **933** were not in support of the proposal.

12.3 Comments

“I am totally shocked and appalled that the Merthyr Tydfil Councillors have considered scrapping post 16 school transport provision. This is ludicrous and unlawful I would think in Wales that removing this transport to Rhydywaun Welsh School as it will affect the post 16 children who reside in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area as well as Merthyr pupils. Both Valleys are in a deprived area where the parents of the Merthyr children will be struggling with the cost and accessibility of getting them to Rhydywaun themselves. The sixth form at Rhydywaun will end and my grandchildren will suffer also and have to be educated in a RCT English Language School.”

“The withdrawal of free transport by Merthyr CBC to Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun will have an extremely detrimental effect on the schools ability to provide welsh medium education for year 12, 13 and 14 pupils. My daughter is currently in Year 12 and my son is in year 9. It is vital to their continuing education needs that they continue to be fully immersed in the Welsh Language by attending a Welsh Medium School until they have completed their A Levels. If free transport is withdrawn how would Merthyr CBC provide a fully Welsh Medium Education for my children. Currently there is no provision for the Merthyr CBC. This is an attack on the Welsh Language.”

“This is going to be difficult for people on low income to get the welsh education that they choose for their families”

“As a parent whose children attend Welsh medium education the withdrawal of school transport Post 16 provision [proposal 12]. Where are my children to be educated through the medium of Welsh? Service bus, we only have a bus 1 per hour. My children would have to catch 2 buses and get to school around 10 o'clock. The loss of funding would be detrimental to everyone in the school and education would suffer. Whilst I understand cuts have to be made, I think cutting buses is not the answer as these children are our future to get us out of this recession. No buses, no education, no jobs. I choose welsh medium education and hope my children will be taught to the age of 18 in welsh.”

"I object to this proposal because I believe it will affect the ability of post-16 students to continue with their education. These learners who need the education and qualifications the most to help them get a job will be most affected. Those who come from disadvantaged and poor backgrounds will be most at risk. I believe it will adversely affect the Welsh language in particular as many learners rely on transport to be able to continue their education through the medium of Welsh. Without free transport many learners will opt out of post 16 education altogether affecting the economic regeneration of this area."

"Put education first, do not stop welsh six form in Rhydywaun without buses it will stop. My daughter is in year 10 starting her GCSE's in welsh, no point if year 12 and 13 won't be there to continue in welsh. Thought Merthyr would be proud of some of its public learning welsh and wanting to stay in education, but it seems you want 91 pupils to lose out a year of education or fail altogether. Proud to be welsh! Ha... What a laugh, yet next time I phone the Council I will be insulted in Welsh first! No future for A Levels in Welsh!"

"Rhydywaun Parent - YsgolSantesTudful parent. Do MTCBC understand the implications that they will cause by cutting transport for age 16+ students. It is not just Rhydywaun that will be affected; it is all the Primary schools in Merthyr & Aberdare that feed into Rhydywaun. Why would parents end their children to a Welsh school if when they turn 16+ there is no transport to their chosen school? Therefore numbers in YsgolSantesTudful&Rhydygrug will fall. Rhydywaun and YsgolSantesTudful have grown in numbers over the years and have proven to be some of the best in the area with evidence (school results to prove it.)"

"I am concerned that children who attend welsh schools cannot continue in the Welsh school to study A levels due to MTCBC cuts on school transport for age 16+ how will these children get to school each day. Are Merthyr council planning to open a welsh department at the 6th form college to teach the 25 subjects in Welsh at A level for those students whose 1st language is Welsh."

"On behalf of my 14 year old daughter; removing free transport to school for Post 16, will leave my daughter and others unable to attend school, Rhydywaun, to complete "A" levels. The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child states "everyone under the age of 18 has the right to an education" and "you should be encouraged to go to the school, to the highest level you can. You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Due to the geographical area and financial implications, my daughter and others would be unable to travel back and fore from our home in Quakers yard to Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in Hirwaun if transport is not provided. There is no direct public transport, I work full time and could not afford time or fuel to transport her. She chooses to continue her education through the medium of Welsh and Rhydywaun is the only provision in the area. Continued education and the Welsh language should be encouraged and promoted - not made impossible! This proposal also discriminates against those living in Merthyr Tydfil as oppose to living in RCT. It will also be likely that school buses for

those under the age of 16 will have empty seats and so no saving for the Council in reality.”

“I am a parent of two girls who study at Ysgol Rhydywaun, Hirwaun. They have to travel to Hirwaun as the MTCC 'Do Not Supply Secondary Education in Welsh' for my children. Our family language is Welsh and you have let us down badly by not supplying us with education for our children after the age of 11 in your borough. And now, it is under threat if you withdraw the funding for the 16+ children to travel to school. This could be the end of Welsh language in Merthyr Tydfil. I urge you not to do this, as you have let the Welsh people of this borough down time and time again.”

“Merthyr students who have learnt in the medium of the Welsh language need to continue to post 16 teaching in the language of their race, choice, heritage - i.e. Welsh language. To stop the students travelling on the school bus - that has spare seats and is already travelling to Ysgol Rhydywaun School is against the students' rights to learn in their own language. Students would be at a disadvantage if at post 16 they couldn't sit A level although the medium of Welsh i.e. - Merthyr College. This is discrimination against the Welsh language.”

“Drop In” Sessions and Short Surveys

1.0 Introduction

The Council held a series of drop in sessions across the County Borough during the consultation process.

At these sessions, service managers were available to discuss the proposals with the public and take comments.

“Drop In” sessions were held on:

- Monday 27th January, 4-6pm, Aberfan Community Centre.
- Tuesday 28th January, 12-2pm, Treharris Community Centre.
- Tuesday 28th January, 4:15-6:15pm, Soar Centre

Short “Drop In” session surveys were developed that replicated the questions from the full online survey. These however, only included asking the public if they agreed with a particular proposal and asking for any comments.

In total there were **238** responses received to these short surveys.

However, within the comments section, some comments relate to more than one proposal. In this instance the comments were split into each proposal and therefore there were more comments than short surveys completed, **263** in total.

During the “Drop In” sessions, **179** members of the public attended with **248** responses collected in the format of short questionnaires, full questionnaires or leaflets complete.

If members of the public wanted to leave more than short comments they were encouraged to complete a full survey and a leaflet. For the purpose of analysis:

- Any full surveys completed were entered in to the SNAP Survey Software to be analysed with the online surveys.
- Any leaflets completed were analysed in **Appendix 2** with the other leaflets received.

As well drop in sessions, several of the short questionnaires were also completed by Youth Service users as part of the individual service user engagement workshops that were held. These surveys are incorporated into this section also.

2.0 Healthy Ageing Programme

2.1 Completions

There were 12 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these only 3 responses agreed with the proposal (**25%**).

2.2 Sample of Comments

“Concerned that old age welfare money is not being paid out to each ward in the borough. With so many cuts being made to what the council can provide for older people, it seems a shame that this money has been cut as well as it affects voluntary groups who are struggling to fund themselves. Some will probably close because of this was under the impression this money came from the Seymour Berry fund set up for the welfare of the older citizen. So what is happening to this money? Interest on the fund.”

“Questions about who will provide e.g. Age Cymru. This is just an example. Who will continue with the exercises, cookery classes - who will continue? First - only delivered certain parts? Town to enquire”

“Most vulnerable being affected. Access to free service which will be missed. Being told so late on - no opportunities to source other funding - cookery classes not needed”

3.0 Learning Disability Care Homes

3.1 Completions

There were 5 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these all 5 responses agreed with the proposal (**100%**).

3.2 Sample of Comments

“Agree with proposal.”

“Happy with the proposal.”

“Agree with the proposal.”

4.0 Children with Disabilities

4.1 Completions

There were 6 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 2 responses agreed with the proposal (**33%**).

4.2 Sample of Comments

“My son has a social worker which supports and helps his needs; he also goes to bridge in the gap twice a week which is helping him socialise and make friends and it also gets him out of the house. I hope these services will continue if not he will be upset and have meltdown's and be very angry he has Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD & Asthma so these services are very good for my son. It will affect him if they are taking off him. Also if these services are taking from him he might become depressed.”

“Children with disabilities need services more than the mayor needs an expensive car.”

5.0 Meals on Wheels

5.1 Completions

There were 12 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 5 responses agreed with the proposal (**42%**).

5.2 Sample of Comments

“You're risking someone starving to death what will happen when you are old you're not just ruining it for us you're ruining it for you.”

“I think keeping meals on wheels is good because people who have kids and can't go shopping should be able to use this service.”

“I would like assurances that the most needy will be catered for.”

“Having chatted with council reps.I know understand that a very careful approach to the withdrawal of this service will happy .My concern as a member of the public who doesn't have family or anyone accessing this service, was that very vulnerable & lonely old people would suffer”

6.0 Older Persons' Day Centre (Forest Road)

6.1 Completions

There were 38 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 1 responses agreed with the proposal (3%).

6.2 Sample of Comments

"The Loss of the service will have the impact of probable closure of the Treharris Boys & Girls Club. Over the past 12 months the Club has lost funding of £8000 rent for housing the Outreach Workers and £4000 from the Princes Trust. The loss of this Day Centre will take our total funding loss to £20,000. It will also put an end to the Flying Start Project with the Meithrin. It will also mean the closure of the Community Cafe and the Mother and Toddler Group. This will also mean addition funding loss of at least £4000 from the Meithrin and other lesser income from Mother and Toddlers and the Community Cafe."

"Apart from the fact the club as a whole needs all the income/funding to keep open, people needing the day centre feel more secure in familiar surroundings. As in a few years' time I would most likely be attending such clubs I know I would prefer to stay in my local village with people and surroundings I know."

7.0 Youth Service

7.1 Completions

There were 49 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these only 2 responses agreed with the proposal (4%).

7.2 Sample of Comments

"Do not shut the youth club because there will be alot more anti-social behaviour in Treharris the youth club is keeping us safe and out of trouble we will have nowhere else to go how would you like it if we worked together to shut your job down you wouldn't like it so don't do it to us!"

"Take the youth centres away then there will be more trouble on the streets!"

"Stupid. Where are all the children going to go? There is no transport! Where are they going to gain experience? Where else in Treharris can they volunteer?"

8.0 Library Service

8.1 Completions

There were 20 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 4 responses agreed with the proposal (**20%**).

8.2 Sample of Comments

“The library should be open for working people and those who want a quiet place to study. It’s not just the unemployed and the retired who want to use the library.”

“May be difficult for working men and women to access library due to work commitments.”

“Need to maintain the service and if that means a reduction in hours, that’s okay.”

9.0 Community Centres

9.1 Completions

There were 5 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 2 responses agreed with the proposal (**40%**).

9.2 Sample of Comments

“I think the nursery should go ahead and I think they should move to Pen-Y-Dre.”

“MTCBC should be investing in leisure facilities for the borough. I don’t understand how the council can consider closing Dowlais CC what will our members of the community do for leisure facilities?”

“I think it is a better idea for the pre-school nursery to be held at the community centre.”

10.0 Tourist Information Centre

10.1 Completions

There were 10 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these 5 responses agreed with the proposal (**50%**).

10.2 Sample of Comments

“Prefer the alternative to be the Civic Centre”

“Should be visited more often if based at somewhere like Cyfarthfa Castle. Current Tourist Info Centre is a little hidden behind the bus station.”

“There should be some form of Tourist Information in the Town Centre, either at the Civic, Museum or Library. But something in the Town. Volunteers to work in Taff Bargoed.”

“I believe that Tourism should still have a town centre location - hopefully MTCBC will not be short sighted and will see tourism as a source of revenue and jobs. Diolch!”

11.0 Public Conveniences

11.1 Completions

There were 17 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these only 3 responses agreed with the proposal (**18%**).

11.2 Sample of Comments

“As council tax payers it is a vital part of everyday life, it is vital part of the service. It maintains dignity and respect. If you are changing buses you need the loo. Also in Pontsticill where can people go to the loo? The same applies to Dowlais.”

“I think if you close the toilets it's going to impact a lot of people because if they need to go to the toilets you will have to go to Tesco's or by the market.”

“Obviously some kind of provision is required for disabled and vulnerable people and to attract shoppers to town centre (rather than to the Retail Park). Pleased that Old Town Hall facility is available. I realise these can be attractions for 'gangs' and illegal activities.”

12.0 School Transport - Concessionary Fares

12.1 Completions

There were 16 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these there were NO responses that agreed with the proposal.

12.2 Sample of Comments

"I will have to quit work if it's taken away as I can't pick them up on time. I would pay more for school transport if I didn't have to quit work."

"Too far for small children to walk especially if it's raining more children will be off school due to having colds and it is also not a safe walk. Maybe meet halfway where you pay £3.20 a day we pay 60p so upping to 60/70p a day."

"I don't want the current school transport to stop from Twynygarreg to Edwardsville. If she has to catch the service bus she won't get to school on time, I'm happy to pay for my child to catch the school bus."

13.0 School Transport - Post 16 Provision

13.1 Completions

There were 73 short surveys completed in relation to this proposal, of these only 1 response agreed with the proposal (1%).

13.2 Sample of Comments

"Not same advantages. Personal ability - Nice community in Rhydywaun. Great asset to me. Would not have achieved. Chance to learn & communicate in a different strong language. Irreplaceable education - can't get this anywhere else. Quality education, very bad decision could knock back current year 12. If no transfer very difficult if not impossible to get to Rhydywaun. Language barrier at Key stage 5. Cost has a big implication - in a poor community. The message - Do not cease Post 16 transport"

"Am concerned at the detriment to my daughters education through stopping post 16 transport to Rhydywaun"

"Surely education is one of the most essential things for children - what happens if parents cannot afford to pay for transport? They will not send their children to school/college."

Petitions Received

1.0 Introduction

There were a number of petitions received during the consultation process. Details of which proposal each petition was in relation to and how many individuals signed each petition are below.

1.1 Proposal 3 - Children with Disabilities

“We object to the newly proposed criteria of 'complex and acute' for accessing services within the Children with Disabilities team. We feel that the proposed criteria will create hardship for disabled children who are refused service support from the Children with Disabilities team due to this proposed change.”

Number of signatories = **1,107**

1.2 Proposal 4 - Meals on Wheels

“Reject proposal 4 in phase 1 of the public consultation plan which states that the current Meals on Wheels service will no longer be provided. We would request that the Meals on Wheels service will continue to be provided in its current format and that MTCBC considers other options for saving money”

Number of signatories = **30**

1.3 Proposal 4 - Meals on Wheels

“Protest at the planned closure of the Meals on Wheels Service, object to the planned closure of the service and ask that our local councillors reject the proposals and find other ways in which to save money.”

Number of signatories = **1,883**

1.4 Proposal 5 - Older Peoples' Day Centre (Forest Road)

“We strongly oppose the proposed closure of forest road day centre for the elderly. We would like to keep this service in Treharris. If you agree can you please sign this petition”

Number of signatories = **525**

Total Signatories = 3545

Letters and Emails

1.0 Number of responses

During the consultation process, members of the public as well as stakeholders were welcomed to send letters and emails voicing their opinion.

In total, **33** letters were received as well as **24** emails, totalling **57** written responses.

Of the letters and emails received, all **57** responses were against the proposals.

The table below illustrates how many written responses were received against each proposal. Some responses discussed several proposals; therefore each response may be included several times in the table.

Proposal	Number of Letters/Emails
Proposal 1 – Healthy Ageing Programme	1
Proposal 2 – Learning Disability Care Homes	4
Proposal 3 – Children with Disabilities	10
Proposal 4 – Meals on Wheels	6
Proposal 5 – Older Peoples' Centre (Forest Road)	14
Proposal 6 – Youth Service	10
Proposal 7 – Library Service	6
Proposal 8 – Community Centres	1
Proposal 9 – Tourist Information Centre	2
Proposal 10 – Public Conveniences	2
Proposal 11 – School Transport Concessionary Fares	8
Proposal 12 – School Transport Post 16 Provision	28

Figure 4: Letters and Emails per Proposal

From the previous table we can see that there have been a large number of written responses about Proposal 12 - School Transport Post 16 Provision with **28** responses. This was closely followed by Proposal 5 – Older Peoples' Centre (Forest Road) with **14** responses.

2.0 Sample Comments

Please see below a selection of comments received from the letters and emails received during the consultation process.

"I read the priorities for Merthyr Council amongst other things is Social Care. So I hope you can appreciate my concern and disappointment that the wellbeing of the older residents in this part of the borough appears to be overlooked by the authorities proposed closure of the centre, in order to save money. For many living alone meeting together with people they know and feel confident with is an important part of their weekly routine. For some the close bonds they have made with staff would be difficult to replicate in a new setting."

"We are really concerned about any changes of these two homes especially Parkview because we have a sister with special needs living there. The standard that she receives there is excellent because the staff there knows what her needs are and understands her. Any deregistration may lead in the long term to policy changes and staff and we as a family are very concerned."

"Given that there is no identified third sector organisation who could deliver this service in this area. Participants felt that the best option is option 2 particularly as the savings are at the same level. A further option could be explored where the service is delivered in the new Bargoed House residential home."

"Merthyr Learners can only access post 16 Welsh Medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. This vital provision is not available within the authority and it would be impossible for them to follow a Programme of Study through the medium of Welsh at an alternative provider. Treating everybody in the same manner will not in this case treat everybody fairly. There are greater geographical and logistical challenges for Merthyr CBC pupils to access Welsh medium provision, thus council policies and strategies should reflect this."

"I am objecting to the proposal to remove post 16 free home school/college transport, in particular the bus service. At OUR SCHOOL, we have pupils aged between 11-19 years. Some choose to attend at the age of 11 and remain the sixth form. As they choose to attend a Church in Wales School at the age of 11, I feel that pupils are being comprised by then being unable to access free transport at post 16."

Name of School removed

“We are of the view that the proposed change in eligibility criteria will have a detrimental impact upon a disproportionately large number of Autism Spectrum Disorder children and their families. We do not agree with the proposal and invite the Authority to extend the period of consultation to discuss possible alternatives.”

“I do not wish the council to end the services provided for Pupil X. Pupil X uses her services to attend pre-school Monday-Friday. She has been attending preschool since September 2012. She then attends Caedraw School 1-3.30pm. Since accessing this provision, Pupil X is now able to be away from me. She also no longer needs the provision of a one to one support worker. Pupil X's confidence, speech and language and social development have greatly improved. On top of this it provides respite for the family allowing quality time with Pupil X's older brother. It deeply concerns me when I think how it will affect Pupil X and the family if this service is withdrawn.”

***Name removed*

“The Youth Club has been part of myself and my children's lives for many years and it would be a very sad day if it closes for the children and the whole community. It would result in young people who have just started work being unemployed and younger children having nowhere to socialise with their friends only shop areas and street corners. Over the years I have helped out by repairing pool and snooker tables so the kids can enjoy themselves without missing out on their favourite activities. I would urge the Council to rethink the closure of the youth club which in time I think will increase the problems of anti-social behaviour. I would just like to say for everyone in the area to oppose the Councils decision as they know their children and grandchildren are safe in the hands of the Youth Workers who do an excellent job. Please everybody just take 5 minutes of your time to save a valued community amenity.”

Copy of Consultation Forms (Electronic and Paper)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Phase 1 Efficiencies Consultation 2014-2015

The UK Government has cut the level of funding to public services. As a result of this, the council need to reduce the levels of services provided. To have your say on the reductions proposed in phase 1 of the consultation, please complete the following questionnaire.

Your views must be submitted to us by 5pm, Monday 3rd February 2014

1.1. Do you understand why the Council needs to reduce services?

Yes

No

1.2. In order to make savings, the Council is reviewing ALL of its services and the way in which they are provided. Do you agree this is a reasonable approach?

Yes

No

1.3. Do you agree with the following principles?

Yes

No

Services are provided equally to all citizens across Merthyr Tydfil

The Council continues to provide all important services to vulnerable people

Services will continue to meet the Council's statutory obligations

PROPOSAL 1 - Healthy Ageing Programme

It is proposed that the Healthy Ageing Programme which offers information, advice and healthy ageing activities, will be included with other services that are already offered. For example, Age Cymru is planning to expand its operations into Merthyr Tydfil and could provide an element of this service as part of its Ageing Well in Wales programme. Age Cymru is looking to further develop these areas of work through the recruitment of volunteers.

Saving = £30K per year

1.4. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

1.5. Do you (or a family member) access the above service?

Yes

No

1.6. How often do you (or a family member) access the above service?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

1.7. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 2 - Learning Disability Care Homes

It is proposed that the two residential care homes for people with learning disabilities at Park View and Glendere would no longer be registered care homes.

The residents will become tenants in their own right and should not experience any changes with this proposal as they would receive continuity of care while remaining in their current homes with their existing care workers.

Saving = £22K per year

- 2.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?**
Yes
No
- 2.2. Do you (or a family member) use the Park View care home?**
Yes
No
- 2.3. Do you (or a family member) Glendere care home?**
Yes
No
- 2.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?**

PROPOSAL 3 - Children with Disabilities

It is proposed that the effective and consistent application of service eligibility criteria for children with disabilities will allow support to be focused on the families most in need.

This proposal, which is consistent with other local authorities, will clarify how needs are to be met and who can access Children with Disabilities social work support and services.

Saving = £50K per year

- 3.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?**
Yes
No
- 3.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?**
Yes
No
- 3.3. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?**

PROPOSAL 4 - Meals on Wheels

It is proposed that the current Meals on Wheels Service will no longer be provided. Where people have been assessed as being in need of support with meal preparation, this will now be provided through the home care services or other suitable alternatives.

Saving = £98K

4.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

4.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes

No

4.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

4.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 5 - Older Persons Day Centre (Forest Road)

It is proposed to close the Forest Road Older Person's Day Centre Service in Treharris and relocate the current service users to an alternative day centre within the County Borough that caters for older people only. This will offer a more appropriate environment for older people to receive this service. All other services used by the local community at the Forest Road Day Centre will remain unchanged.

Saving = £80K

5.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

5.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes

No

5.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

5.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 6 - Youth Service

It is proposed to close all part-time youth centres throughout the County Borough and the Town Centre Information Shop. Available resources will provide services at a smaller number of full time Youth Centres within the county borough. The remaining youth services will focus on topics such as employment and health.

Saving = £92K over 2 years

- 6.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?**
Yes
No
- 6.2. Do you or (a family member) use the above service?**
Yes
No
- 6.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?**
Daily
Weekly
Monthly
N/A
- 6.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?**

PROPOSAL 7 - Library Service

It is proposed to reduce the opening hours of the Library Service by closing Dowlais library and Treharris library on Saturdays and closing all Libraries at 6pm on all other days.
It is also proposed to remove the mobile library service, but to continue to provide the Homelinks service (delivering books to those who are housebound) throughout the County Borough.

Saving = £158K per year

- 7.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?**
Yes
No
- 7.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?**
Yes
No
- 7.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?**
Daily
Weekly
Monthly
N/A
- 7.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?**

PROPOSAL 8 - Community Centres

It is proposed that there is a change of use at the Gurnos Community Centre; which would potentially accommodate 'Flying Start', a pre-school nursery provision.

The outside recreation facilities will remain, however, the gym facility provided at Gurnos Community Centre will be relocated to PenydreHigh School.

It is also proposed to see alternative methods of service delivery for Dowlais Community Centre by:

- 1) transferring the assets to a suitable community group;
- 2) establishing a local management committee; or
- 3) closing the facility.

Savings = £40K per year

8.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

8.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes

No

8.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

8.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 9 - Tourist Information Centre

It is proposed to close the Tourist Information Centres in the Town Centre and at Parc Taf Bargoed and offer the service at alternative venues such as the Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and/or the Civic Centre.

Saving = £55K per year

9.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

9.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes

No

9.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

9.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 10 - Public Conveniences

It is proposed to close the public conveniences in Pontsticill, Dowlais and at the Town Centre Bus Station. Alternative public conveniences will still be available in St Tydfil's Shopping Centre and the OldTownHallBuilding.

Saving = £65K per year

10.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

10.2. Do you (or a family member) or use the above service?

Yes

No

10.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

10.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 11 - Concessionary Fares

It is proposed to change the School Transport Provision within the County Borough. This will be done by removing available seats on buses for those pupils who live within walking distance of the schools. This currently costs the Council £3.20 per seat per day but pupils are only charged 60p. This is a non- statutory obligation.

Saving = £ 142K per year

11.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes
No

11.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes
No

11.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily
Weekly
Monthly
N/A

11.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

PROPOSAL 12 - School Transport - Post 16 provision

It is proposed to remove post 16 free home to school and free home to college transport. This includes dedicated buses together with bus and train passes. This is a non-statutory service.

Saving = £ 115K per year

12.1. Do you agree with the above proposal?

Yes

No

12.2. Do you (or a family member) use the above service?

Yes

No

12.3. How often do you (or a family member) use the above services?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

N/A

12.4. Do you have any additional comments about this proposal?

Additional Information

13.1. Which other Council services do you think should be considered to be reduced or delivered differently?

13.2. Do you have any additional comments?

About You

The Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity within the County Borough and believe that everyone living in and working in Merthyr Tydfil has the right to be treated fairly and to live free from discrimination.

- 14.1. Please select from the grid below, which proposals you think would further affect you, by selecting them against the characteristics (if any).**
(For example, if you think Proposal 1 will affect you because of your Gender tick that box, and so on)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Your Gender												
Your Gender Identity												
Your Age												
Your Ethnicity												
Your Disability												
Your Sexuality												
Your Religion												
Your Marital Status												
Your Pregnancy												
Your Language												

Please provide reason/s for your answers above:

- Proposal 1 = Healthy Ageing Programme**
- Proposal 2 = Learning Disability Care Homes**
- Proposal 3 = Children with Disabilities**
- Proposal 4 = Meals on Wheels**
- Proposal 5 = Older Persons Day Centre (Forest Road)**
- Proposal 6 = Youth Service**
- Proposal 7 = Library Services**
- Proposal 8 = Community Centres**
- Proposal 9 = Tourist Information Centre**
- Proposal 10 = Public Conveniences**
- Proposal 11 = School Transport - Concessionary Fares**
- Proposal 12 = School Transport - Post 16 provision**

- 14.2. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?**
- As an individual
 - As a member of staff
 - As a stakeholder (e.g. voluntary/community group)
 - Other

Please State:

Personal Details

You do not have to provide these details if you prefer your response to remain anonymous.

14.3.	Title:	
14.4.	Name:	
14.5.	Email:	
14.6.	Address:	
14.7.	Postcode:	

Phase/Cam 1

The UK Government has cut the level of funding to public services. As a result we need to reduce our levels of services.

Have your say on the reductions proposed in Phase 1.

Tell us what you think.

www.merthyr.gov.uk/servicechanges

Mae Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi torri'r arian ar gyfer gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

O ganlyniad, mae angen i ni leihau ein lefel o wasanaethau.

Mynnwch gael dweud eich dweud am y toriadau arfaethedig yng ngham 1.

Dywedwch wrthon ni beth yw eich barn.

www.merthyr.gov.uk/newidiwasanaethau



ALL councils in Wales will be adversely affected by a significant reduction to their funding as a consequence of cuts in the funding made available by the UK Government.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is facing an estimated shortfall in resources (a budget gap) over the next 4 years of in excess of £15.3m.

In order to deal with this budget gap, the Council has to consider options to reduce expenditure by reconfiguring, cutting or reducing the services which we provide.

A key part of this process will be to gauge the views of our residents, staff and key stakeholders on our proposals as they are put before Councillors over the coming months.

The Council wants to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to take part in the consultation process.

To help us do this the Council will let you know about each proposal or set of proposals via posters, leaflets and the Council website.

Provide the opportunity for you to have your say - written, via the internet or through the completion of a questionnaire.

Bydd POB cyngor yng Nghymru'n gweld effaith andwyol trwy ostyngiad sylweddol yn eu cyllidebau o ganlyniad i doriadau i gyllidebau gan Lywodraeth San Steffan.

Mae Cyngor Merthyr Tudfil yn wynebu diffyg yn ei adnoddau (bwlch yn ei gyllideb) o dros £15.3 miliwn dros y 4 blynedd nesaf.

Er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r bwlch yma, ae rhaid i'r Cyngor ystyried opsiynau i gwtogi ar wariant trwy ailddrefnu, torri neu ostwng nifer y gwasanaethau rydym ni'n eu darparu.

Rhon allweddol â'r broses hon fydd ceisio barn ein trigolion, staff, a rhoddalliaid allweddol eraill ymghin â'r cynigion wrth iddynt nhw gael eu cyflwyno gerbron Cyngorwyr dros y misoedd nesaf.

Mae'r Cyngor eisiau sicrhau bod cymaint o bobl ag y bo modd yn cael y cyfle i gymryd rhan yn y broses ymgynghori.

I wneud hynny, bydd y Cyngor yn rhoi gwybod i chi am bob cynnig arfaethedig neu gyfres o gynigion trwy boster, taflenni, a gwefan y Cyngor.

rhaf'r cyfle chi gael dweud eich dweud - yn ysgrifenedig, rhyngwyd neu lenwi'n holladur.

rhaf'ch sylwadau i Gabinet y Cyngor cyn i unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol gael eu gwneud, ac yn rhoi gwybod am y penderfyniadau sydd wedi'u cymryd.

PHASE 1 proposals are detailed as follows...

The details of these proposals can be viewed online at the following web link
[www.merthyr.gov.uk/
servicechanges](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/servicechanges)

A more detailed consultation pack is available at the Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil

CAM 1 dyma'r manyllion am y cynigion...

Mae modd darllen rhagor o fanyllion am y cynigion yn
[www.merthyr.gov.uk/
newidiwasanaethau](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/newidiwasanaethau)

Mae pecyn ymgynghori mwy manwl ar gael yn y Ganolfan Dinesig, Stryd Y Castell, Merthyr Tydfil

Proposal Cynnig :1

Healthy Ageing Programme

It is proposed that the Healthy Ageing Programme which offers information, advice and healthy ageing activities, will be included with other services that are already offered.

For example, Age Cymru is planning to expand its operations into Merthyr Tydfil and could provide an element of this service as part of its Ageing Well in Wales programme.

Age Cymru is looking to further develop these areas of work through the recruitment of volunteers.

Saving £30k per year

Rhaglen Heneiddio'n Iach

Y cynnig yw cynnwys y Rhaglen Heneiddio'n Iach yn rhan o wasanaethau eraill sy eisoes ar gael. Mae'r Rhaglen yn cynnig gwybodaeth, cyngor a gwybodaeth ynglyn â heneiddio'n iach.

Er enghraifft, mae Age Cymru yn bwriadu estyn ei waith i ardal Merthyr Tydfil. Byddai modd iaddo ddarparu elfen o'r gwasanaeth yma yn rhan o'r raglen Heneiddio yn Dda yng Nghymru.

Mae Age Cymru yn edrych i ddotblygu'r meysydd yma ymhellach drwy recriwtio gwirfoddolwyr.

Arbed £30k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :2

Learning Disability Care Homes

It is proposed that the two residential care homes for people with learning disabilities at Park View and Glendere would no longer be registered care homes.

Care will still be provided by the Council and their staff, however the residents will become tenants in their own right.

Existing residents shouldn't experience any changes with this proposal as they would remain in their current homes with their existing care workers.

Saving £22k per year

Cartrefi Gofal i Bobl ag Anableddau Dysgu

Y cynnig yw fyddai'r ddau gartref gofal preswyl ar gyfer pobl ag anableddau dysgu yn Park View a Glendere ddim mwyach yn gartrefi gofal cofrestredig.

Byddai'r Cyngor a'i staff yn parhau i ddarparu gofal. Serch hynny, byddai trigolion yn dod yn denantiaid.

Fyddai trigolion presennol ddim yn wynebu unrhyw newidiadau yn sgil y cynnig yma a bydden nhw'n parhau yn eu cartrefi presennol gyda'u gweithwyr gofal presennol.

Arbed £22k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :3

Children with Disabilities

It is proposed that the effective and consistent application of service eligibility criteria for children with disabilities will allow support to be focused on the families most in need.

This proposal, consistent with other local authorities, will clarify how needs are to be met and who can access Children with Disabilities social work support and services.

Saving £50k per year

Plant ag anableddau

Y cynnig yw y byddai gweithredu meini prawf cymhwyster effeithiol a chyson ar gyfer y gwasanaeth i blant ag anableddau yn sicrhau bod modd i gefnogaeth gael ei chanolbwyntio ar y teuluoedd sy mewn mwyaf o angen.

Byddai'r cynnig, sy'n gyson ag awdurdodau lleol eraill, yn nodi'n glir sut bydd anghenion yn cael eu diwallu a phwy all gael mynediad i gefnogaeth a gwasanaethau gwaith cymdeithasol yn ymwneud â phlant ag anableddau.

Arbed £50k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :4

Meals on Wheels

It is proposed that the current Meals on Wheels Service will no longer be provided.

Where people have been assessed as being in need of support with meal preparation, this will now be provided through the home care services or other suitable alternatives.

Saving £98k per year

Prydau ar Glud

Y cynnig yw rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth Prydau ar Glud presennol.

Lle bo pobl wedi derbyn asesiad sy'n dangos eu bod angen cefnogaeth i baratoi prydau, byddai'r gefnogaeth yn cael ei darparu drwy'r gwasanaethau gofal yn y cartref neu wasanaethau priodol eraill.

Arbed £98k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :5

Older Persons' Day Centre (Forest Road)

It is proposed to close the Forest Road Older Persons' Day Centre Service in Treharris and relocate the current service users to an alternative day centre within the County Borough that caters for older people only.

This will offer a more appropriate environment for older people to receive this service.

All other services used by the local community at the Forest Road Day Centre will remain unchanged.

Saving £80k per year

Canolfan Oriau Dydd i'r Henoed (Forest Road)

Y cynnig yw cau Canolfan Oriau Dydd i'r Henoed Forest Road yn Nhrefharris, a bod defnyddwyr presennol y gwasanaeth yn defnyddio canolfannau oriau dydd eraill yn y fwrdeistref sirol sy'n gwasanaethu pobl hyn yn unig.

Byddai hyn yn cynnig amgylchedd mwy priodol i bobl hyn ddefnyddio'r gwasanaeth yma.

Byddai pob gwasanaeth arall a gaiff ei ddefnyddio gan y gymuned leol yng Nghanoifan Oriau Dydd Forest Road yn parhau yn yr un modd.

Arbed £80k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :6

Youth Service

It is proposed to close all part-time youth centres throughout the County Borough and the Town Centre Information Shop.

Available resources will provide services at a smaller number of full time Youth Centres within the County Borough. The remaining youth services will focus on topics such as employment and health.

Saving £92k over 2 years

Gwasanaethau i bobl ifainc

Y cynnig yw cau pob canolfan ieuentid ran amser ar hyd a lled y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn agystal â Sioep Wybodaeth Canol y Dref.

Byddai adnoddau sydd ar gael yn darparu gwasanaethau mewn niferoedd llai o ganolfannau ieuentid yn y fwrdeistref sirol.

Byddai'r gwasanaethau i ieuentid sy'n parhau yn canolbwyntio ar faterion fel cyflogaeth ac iechyd.

Arbed £92k dros ddwy flynedd

Proposal Cynnig :7

Library Service

It is proposed to reduce the opening hours of the Library Service by closing Dowlais and Treharris libraries on Saturdays and closing all Libraries at 6pm on all other days.

It is also proposed to remove the mobile library service, but to continue to provide the Homelinks service (delivering books to those who are housebound) throughout the County Borough.

Saving £158k per year

Gwasanaeth y Llyfrgelloedd

Y cynnig yw cwtogi oriau agor Gwasanaeth y Llyfrgelloedd drwy gau llyfrgelloedd Dowlais a Treharris ar ddydd Sadwrn a chau'r llyfrgelloedd i gyd am 6pm ar bob dydd arall.

Y cynnig hefyd yw cael gwared ar wasanaeth y llyfrgell deithiol, ond parhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth Homelinks (mynd â llyfrau i'r sawl sy'n goeth i'w cartref) ar hyd a lled y fwrdeistref.

Arbed £158k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :8

Community Centres

It is proposed that there is a change of use at the Gurnos Community Centre; which would potentially accommodate 'Flying Start', a pre-school nursery provision.

The outside recreation facilities will remain, however, the gym facility provided at Gurnos Community Centre will be relocated to Pen-y-dre High School.

It is also proposed to seek alternative methods of service delivery for Dowlais Community Centre by:

1. Transferring the assets to a suitable community group;
2. Establishing a local management Committee or closing the facility.

Saving £40k per year

Canolfannau Cymunedol

Y cynnig yw newid sut caiff Canolfan Gymunedol y Gurnos ei defnyddio Mae'n bosibl y byddai'r rhaglen 'Dechrau'n Deg' yn ei defnyddio; dyma ddarparioeth fethrin ar gyfer plant cyn oed ysgol.

Byddai'r cyfleusterau hamdden awyr agored yn parhau. Serch hynny, byddai cyfleusterau'r gampfa a gaiff eu darparu gan Ganolfan Gymunedol y Gurnos yn symud i Ysgol Uwchradd Pen-y-dre.

Y cynnig hefyd yw canfod dulliau eraill o ddarparu gwasanaeth ar gyfer Canolfan Gymunedol Dowlais drwy:

1. Trosglwyddo'r asedau i grwp cymuned priodol;
2. Sefydlu pwyllgor rheoli lleol neu
3. Gau'r cyfleuster.

Arbed £40k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :9

Tourist Information Centre

It is proposed to close the Tourist Information Centres in the Town Centre and at Parc Taf Bargoed and offer the service at alternative venues such as Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and/or the Civic Centre.

Saving £55k per year

Canolfan Gwybodaeth i Dwrstiold

Y cynnig yw cau Canolfannau Gwybodaeth i Dwrstiold yng nghanol y dref ac ym Mharc Taf Bargoed. Byddai'r gwasanaeth yn cael ei gynnig mewn lleoliadau eraill fel Armgueddfa Castell Cyfarthfa a/neu'r Ganolfan Ddinesig.

Arbed £55k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :10

Public Conveniences

It is proposed to close the public conveniences in Ponsticill, Dowlais and at the Town Centre Bus Station.

Alternative public conveniences will still be available in St Tydfil's Shopping Centre and the Old Town Hall Building.

Saving £65k per year

Toileddau Cyhoeddus

Y cynnig yw cau toileddau cyhoeddus ym Mhontsticill, Dowlais a ger yr Orsaf Fystau yng nghanol y dref.

Byddai toileddau cyhoeddus eraill ar gael yng Nghanolfan Siopa Santes Tudful ac Adeilad Hen Neuadd y Dref

Arbed £65k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :11

School Transport Concessionary Fares

It is proposed to change the School Transport Provision within the County Borough.

This will be done by removing available seats on buses for those pupils who live within walking distance of the schools. This currently costs the Council £3.20 per seat per day but pupils are only charged 60p. This is a non-statutory obligation.

Saving £142k per year

Trafnidiaeth Ysgol Tocynnau Mantais y Bysiau

Y cynnig yw newid darpariaeth trafnidiaeth ysgol yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Byddwn ni'n cael gwared ar seddi sydd ar gael ar fysiau i'r disgyblion hynny sy'n byw o fewn pellter cerdded i'r ysgol. Ar hyn o bryd, y gost i'r Cyngor yw £3.20 y sedd y diwrnod.

Serch hynny, dim ond 60c y mae disgyblion yn ei dalu. Does dim rhwymedigaeth statudol arnom ni i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth.

Arbed £142k y flwyddyn

Proposal Cynnig :12

School Transport Post 16 provision

It is proposed to remove post 16 free home to school and free home to college transport. This includes dedicated buses together with bus and train passes. This is a non-statutory service.

Saving £115k per year

Trafnidiaeth Ysgol Darpariaeth ôl-16 oed

Y cynnig yw rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu trafnidiaeth o'r cartref i'r ysgol am ddim a thrafnidiaeth o'r cartref i'r coleg am ddim i ddisgyblion a myfyrwyr sy'n derbyn addysg a hyfforddiant ar ôl-16 oed.

Mae hyn yn cynnwys bysiau pwrpasol ynghyd â thocynnau bysiau a threnau. Dydy'r gwasanaeth yma ddim yn statudol.

Arbed £115k y flwyddyn

**For more
information
and a detailed
consultation
pack:**

[www.merthyr.gov.uk/
servicechanges](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/servicechanges)

[consultation@
merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@merthyr.gov.uk)

01685 725 000

This consultation is open from
6th January 2014
and closes on
3rd February 2014
at 5:00pm.

Available in alternative
languages or formats on
request.

**Hoffech
chi ragor o
wybodaeth
a phecyn
ymgyngori
manwl?**

[www.merthyr.gov.uk/
newidiwasanaethau](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/newidiwasanaethau)

[consultation@
merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@merthyr.gov.uk)

01685 725 000

Bydd yr ymgynghoriad yndechrau
6 Ionawr 2014
ac yn dod i ben

3 Chwefron 2014
5:00yp

Dewiswch iaith a diwyg
eich dogfen ar gais.

Have your say... Dweud eich Dweud...

Please provide your comments here / Nodwch eich sylwadau yma

Title/Teitl: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr Other/Arall.....

Name / Enw.....

Address / Cyfeiriad:.....
.....
.....

Postcode / Còd y Post.....

Email / Epost.....

Are you employed by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council? /
Rydych chi yn aelod o staff Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful? Yes/Ydw

Do you feel that these proposals would impact you more / affect you personally because of any of the following...

Ydych chi a'r farn y bydd y cynigion yma'n effeithio arnoch chi yn fwy / yn bersonol yn sgil unrhyw un o'r canlynol...

Proposal Number/Cynnig:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Your Gender / Eich rhyw.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Age / Eich oedran.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Ethnicity / Eich ethnigrwydd.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Disability / Eich anabledd.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Sexuality / Eich rhywioldeb.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Religion / Eich crefydd.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Gender Identity / Eich hunaniaeth o ran rhyw.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Marital Status / Eich statws priodasol.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Pregnancy / Eich beichiogrwydd.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Language / Eich iaith.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide your reasons overleaf / Nodwch eich rhesymau trosodd

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council will process the information collected within this form in accordance with our privacy policy which is located on our website. The information collected will be used for statistical and analytical purposes and will be kept confidential. Your personal details will not be shared with other organisations and will remain anonymous.

Mi fydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful yn prosesu'r wybodaeth a chasglwyd ar y ffurflen yma yn gytundeb gyda'n polisi preifatrwydd sydd yma ar ein gwefon. Fydd y wybodaeth a chasglwyd yn cael ei ddefnyddio er mwyn dadansoddi ystadegau a fydd yn gyfrinachol. Ni fydd eich manylion personol yn cael ei rhannu gydag osiantaethau eraill a fyddent yn arw yn anhysbys.

