**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLORS ANNUAL REPORT**

This is the report by the Councillor named below regarding their key activities over the year ending 30th April 2023. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

*Completion instructions: Councillors are free to include as much or as little information as they wish in each section, however the report is to be kept to this* ***2 page maximum*** *format.*

**Councillor: Helen Cunningham**

**Party: Welsh Labour**

**Ward: Llanhilleth**

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| **Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities** |
| Ward member for Llanhilleth – Covering the communities of; Aberbeeg, Brynithel, Llanhilleth, St Illtyd and Swffryd.  Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Place and Environment covering areas including;   * Deputising for the Leader * Waste Management, Recycling, Street Lighting * Highways Maintenance, Engineering and Winter Maintenance * Markets, Cemeteries & Grounds Maintenance * School Catering, Building Cleaning, Corporate Landlord * Climate Change, Decarbonisation & Bio Diversity * Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Licensing * Housing Solutions (Homelessness & Common Housing Register) * Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy (Adaptations Grants & Improvement Loans & Domestic Energy Efficiency Schemes) * Gypsy Roma Traveller Communities (Strategy & Operations) * Transportation Strategy/Joint Passenger Transport Unit * Roads, road safety, street works and flood management * Energy, Reservoirs, Mines and Quarries * CCTV & Community Safety |
| **Section 2: Constituency Activity** |
| In addition to a number of street surgeries and joint surgeries, I have held individual ward councillor surgeries in Aberbeeg Community Centre, Brynithel Community Centre, Llanhilleth Institute and Swffryd Community Centre on weekdays and weekends.  I have initiated and participated in community clean ups and litter picks in partnership with individual residents and organisations including the Probation Service, Keep Wales Tidy, GAVO, Tai Calon and our own Council Local Environmental Quality team. I have been pleased to support and participate in community events and activities including the Viaduct Fun Run, BAG community clean ups and walkabouts with Tai Calon. I have also participated in consultations and submitted responses on proposed windfarms affecting the Llanhilleth Ward.  I continue to receive and work to resolve a wide variety of casework as outlined below: Housing (11) Highways (9) Waste & Recycling (7) Welfare & Benefits (5) Planning & Land (4) Social Services (4) Education (4) Environmental Health (4) Trees & Shrubs (3) Street lighting (3) Other including anti-social behaviour and local rail development (6). |

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| **Section 3: Cabinet and Scrutiny Activities** |
| As Cabinet Member I have brought a range of reports to Cabinet for discussion, decision and information. These have included reports on the borough’s air quality, the annual Community Services report, the transfer of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd, highways capital works programme, waste and recycling strategy review, EcoFlex (energy efficiency) scheme amongst many others.  I have deputised for the Leader at a range of meetings including Cardiff Capital Region and the Welsh Local Government Association.  I am pleased to be part of a council and council leadership that granted the Freedom of the Borough to Eva Clark; holocaust survivor and first woman to be granted the Freedom of the Borough. The same applies to the council’s decision to provide redress for Flying Start employees who missed out on Welsh Government's Financial Recognition Scheme, set up a Cost of Living working group and chose to fund provision for families in receipt of free school meals over the 2023 summer holiday period. |
| **Section 4: Training and Development** |
| As part of a new cohort of councillors I have participated on introductory training including on planning, roles and responsibilities of elected members, financial management and a range of directorate overviews.  As a Cabinet Member I have also received cabinet specific training including through the WLGA and recently completed my annual Personal Development Review. |
| **Section 5: Initiatives, Special Activities and Issues** |
| I have donated Special Levy funding to Aberbeeg Community Centre, Abertillery and District Museum, Brynithel Community Centre, Head4Arts, Llanhilleth Institute and Swffryd Community Centre.  I have enjoyed working in partnership with Llanhilleth Miners Institute, Clwb Llan and Head4Arts and local community members on a mural project for the Fields Pumping Station with the support of the Presiding Members Fund, pay uplift donation, funding including in-kind funding from the organisations involved. |
| **Signature of Councillor:** *H Cunningham*  **Date:** 20 October 2023 |