

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 3 October, 2016.

Present: Councillor N. Moore (Chairman), Councillor L. Burnett (Vice – Chairman);
Councillors: B.E. Brooks, P. G. King and G. John.

C3309 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T following a typographical error, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, 2016 be approved subject to the following revision: that resolution three of minute number C3308, page 6293, be amended to “T H A T subject to the decision of Council, regarding the amendment to the Capital Programme in relation to resolution 4 below, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services to accept a tender to undertake the work and authorise the Head of Legal Services to execute a contract with the successful bidder”.

C3310 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

C3311 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee held on 14 September, 2016 at Cardiff International White Water were submitted.

Present:

Councillor L. Burnett (Chairman)	Vale of Glamorgan Council (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education)
Mrs. C. Dimond	Cardiff Flood Action Committee
Councillor G. Roberts	Penarth Town Council
Mr. S. Jones	Quay Marinas Ltd (Marina Manager)
Mrs. S. Newbold	Representing British Marine Federation and Royal Yachting Association
Mr. D. Cairn Cross	Cardiff Bay Yacht Club

Also present:

Mr. T. Gifford	Cardiff Harbour Authority
Mr. D. Hall	Cardiff Harbour Authority
Mr. C. Vlaicu	Cardiff Bay Yacht Club
Mrs. K. Bowen	Vale of Glamorgan Council (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer)

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Mr. C. Atherton (Waterfront Partners - Chairman), Mr. M. Chidlow (Associated British Ports – Harbour Master), Mrs. N. De Longhi (Natural Resources Wales – Operational Manager), Councillor B. Derbyshire (Cardiff Council (Cabinet Member for Environment)), Mr. C. Michael (RSPB – South Wales Area Manager) and Mr. A. Parker (Independent Member).

(b) Minutes –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 22nd June, 2016 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Matters Arising –

A number of Members referred to the details provided at the last meeting in respect of forthcoming events in the Barry, Penarth areas and Cardiff Bay, agreeing that such information should be presented to the Committee on an annual basis in order that further advertising can be encouraged and pursued. Reference was also made to the excellent event that had been held in Barry, namely the Isle of Fire it being noted that it was hoped this would continue to be an annual event. The Chairman stated that the sharing of such information and the use of social media was essential to promote events and capture wider audiences. The Chairman also took the opportunity to advise the Committee of forthcoming events due to take place in Southerndown which was again publicised by the use of social media amongst other methods.

AGREED – T H A T the sharing of information with regard to events, as soon as it is available, be continued.

(d) Navigational Safety – Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. T. Gifford, (Cardiff Harbour Authority) in presenting his report referred to the following :-

- Cardiff Half Marathon was scheduled to take place on 2nd October, 2016 commencing at 10.05 a.m. There would be 90 minute bridge closure and notices for the event were in hand.
- Dredging - this had been successfully completed in July 2016 with a final dredge to take place in 2017. It was noted that as a result of the value of the contract, this would now have to be put to tender for a European contract. It was further noted that the current dredging had been the first under the licence provided by Natural Resources Wales. Following a query as to dredging depths it was confirmed that the target dredge depths were the same as previous years.
- Barrage - the crocodile bench had arrived in the Barrage during the week, which had been welcomed by all.
- Routine maintenance repairs were currently being undertaken at Sluice 4.

Following a further query, regarding the PA system at Pont y Werin it was reported that there had been an issue with the power supply but this had recently been rectified.

AGREED – T H A T the update report be noted.

(e) Progress Report – Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. D. Hall (Cardiff Harbour Authority) referred to the successful Green day project being undertaken by “Innovate Trust” with various activities such as bird watching, pond dipping, etc. which was about getting people involved and was a confidence building project.

Reference was also made in respect of a number of dead swans that had been found around the Bay and which had been taken for analysis to a laboratory in order to try to understand what had happened and whether the swans had been subject to bird flu or any other viruses. However, the test results had come back clear and although there was no real reason that could be concluded as to why they had died, the area would continue to be monitored.

In 2014 Cardiff Harbour Authority entered into a project with the British Geological Society to assess the viability of using groundwater in Cardiff as a heat source. The study found that the groundwater temperature in the area was well above average. As a result boreholes were sunk and Grangetown Nursery School is now heated by groundwater which provides a steady source of heating.

AGREED – T H A T the progress report be noted.

(f) Natural Resources Wales –

Mrs. De Longhi, who was unable to be present at the meeting, had forwarded an update to the Clerk which was tabled at the meeting. The report outlined that the “Know Your Rivers” report had been delayed and she would provide an update at the next meeting or circulate via correspondence, whichever was deemed appropriate.

There had been no further low dissolved oxygen events since the last meeting in June, and as such there had only been one for the Summer period which had been in May 2016.

There had been an issue with a sunken vessel where oil had been floating to the surface. However, this had been deemed relatively low risk with little or no pollution and had been quickly resolved.

The Radyr Weir hydro power scheme (CCC) was operational and the associated multi species fish pass was also operating.

Associated British Ports Cardiff had applied to renew their dredging permit for a three year renewal and Natural Resources Wales did not anticipate any issues with this renewal application.

In considering the report, reference was made to whether there was potential for micro-hydro in the Bay, with the representatives from Cardiff Harbour Authority advising that this was a question that was asked on numerous occasions but that this was not an option that was being considered at present. Different projects were however ongoing for consideration as to whether there was a possibility of using energy from water, but there was nothing at present to report. The officer also advised there was nothing at present that would work that would not affect the operation of the Barrage.

AGREED – T H A T the Natural Resources Wales update be noted.

(g) City Deal Update – Report to Cardiff Cabinet 14th July, 2016 –

In the absence of Mr. J. Day, Economic Policy Manager, who was due to present the report and was en route, the Chairman, having been party to a number of discussions in relation to the City Deal, provided an update to Members.

It was noted that the City Deal was a partnership between ten Local Authority Leaders, the First Minister of Wales, the Minister for Finance, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Following the signing of the City Deal document earlier in the year, progress had been made in establishing governance and support arrangements for the finalisation of the deal. A Programme Director had been appointed and a growth and competitiveness commission established. Discussions were continuing and various other organisations were now on board. A number of issues would however be required, for example:

- an integrated strategic development plan needed to be developed
- business support issues needed to be addressed
- the development of a form of transport authority, including details of infrastructure.

Discussions were continuing to take place and the Chairman could confirm that she would be attending a meeting in relation to the Growth and Competitiveness Commission later in the week. She would provide further updates to the Committee in due course.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government for Wales had also advised that although he had said Local Government reorganisation was not part of his agenda, he had outlined that he was supportive of increased collaboration. Therefore, the Chairman stated that the City Deal could be seen as a way of fostering good relationships and encouraging collaboration. Of significant importance she further stated that the development of the Metro, would be an important aspect of the City Deal.

AGREED – T H A T the Chairman's report be noted and further updates be provided to the Committee in due course.

(h) Any Other Business –

- The Vice-Chairman referred to Dewatering wells and requested that a presentation be made to a meeting of the Committee, preferably the next meeting, to provide details of such usage.

- It was also noted that the six monthly ground water report was due shortly which, as normal, would be forwarded to Mrs. Dimond for her consideration to report any concerns to the Committee.
- The Chairman advised that the zigzag path from Penarth Marina to Penarth Heights was now illuminated at night and appeared to be well used.

(i) Date of Next Meeting –

It was confirmed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2016 at 5.15 p.m at Cardiff International White Water.

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At the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education noted that members of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee had attended and commended many of the Barry Island Weekender events such as the Isle of Fire.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the minutes of the meeting.

**C3312 RESHAPING SERVICES – PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION (L)
(SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

Cabinet was presented with an update on the progress of the Reshaping Services Programme.

Cabinet approved the Reshaping Services strategy on 3 November, 2014. The Strategy was developed following a programme of consultation and engagement with key stakeholder groups, including briefing sessions for elected members and officers.

The aim of the strategy was 'to reshape the Council to enable it to meet the future needs of citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan within the context of unprecedented financial challenges.

As approved by Cabinet in January 2015, the Reshaping Services programme comprised of three inter-related workstreams of projects as follows:

- Service Specific Workstream Projects
- Corporate Workstream Projects
- Programme Activity

Service Specific Workstream Projects - The Reshaping Services programme would undertake on-going reviews of Council services via a “challenge process”. Each service area across the Council would be subject to challenge on a regular basis throughout the duration of the programme. The projects included in the first tranches of the service specific workstream were as follows:

Tranche One	Tranche Two
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Catering Library Services Transportation Building Maintenance Highways Planning Regulatory Services ICT (to be run over tranches 1 and 2) Property projects (corporate office building rationalisation and cleaning & security) Social Services Budget & Collaborative Working Programmes	Learning & Skills Strategy and Resources Parks & Grounds (Maintenance and client services) Housing Services (Landlord responsibilities) Building Services – Cleaning & Security services Refuse & Recycling and Street Cleansing Corporate Services

Corporate Workstream Projects - The challenge group identified a series of opportunities that would benefit from a corporate-wide response and these were being progressed as corporate workstream projects.

Programme Activity - The third element of the Reshaping Services programme was the corporate arrangements that had been put in place to manage the programme and ensure its efficient delivery.

The Cabinet report of January 2015 provided an indicative timetable for undertaking the development of business cases, for business case approval and scrutiny and to implement changes. The timescales set out in the report were indicative only as the time taken to develop proposals would depend on the service and complexity of the

project. As described above, several projects were on-course to deliver the required savings in full, whilst in other areas, analysis and business case work was on-going.

As part of the Council's budget setting process, the opportunity was taken to re-profile savings in some areas to ensure sufficient time was allowed to enable the development of robust proposals. This reflected the assertion contained in the January 2015 report to Cabinet that the complexity and type of service would affect the time taken to develop proposals. The programme board remained cognisant of the level of savings required, however, and consideration was being given to bringing forward savings where it was possible to do so.

As indicated above, it was proposed that future tranches of projects be identified in 2016 and the process for doing so was currently being considered and would be reported via the programme board to Cabinet in due course.

The report to Cabinet in January 2015 recognised that there would be costs associated with delivering the Programme. Costs would be incurred in areas such as project/programme management, developing capacity and capability and the procurement of specialist expertise. The Council had sought to minimise any costs by making use of a mix of internal and external resources, working with partners and identifying low-cost training opportunities.

The overall savings associated with the Reshaping Services Programme were £3.052M (2016/17), £6.129M (2017/18) and £430K (2018/19). The following table illustrated the contribution Reshaping Services was making to the Council's overall financial savings by Directorate. The table included an allocation of the savings associated with the transportation programme across all Directorates.

Directorate	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Managing Director & Resources (including General Policy and Council wide savings)	4,110	3,204	257	7,571
Reshaping Services	864	2,750	50	3,664
Other Savings	3,246	454	207	3,907
Learning & Skills	1,164	796	60	2,020
Reshaping Services	957	678	60	1,695
Other Savings	207	118	0	325
	3,008	2,416	125	5,549

Environment & Housing				
Reshaping Services	1,074	2,366	0	3,440
Other Savings	1,934	50	125	2,109
	1,007	605	320	1,932
Social Services				
Reshaping Services	157	335	320	812
Other Savings	850	270	0	1,120
Total Council	9,289	7,021	762	17,072
Total Reshaping Services	3,052	6,129	430	9,611
Total Other Savings	6,237	892	332	7,461

The targets above were subject to change as part of the programme and would be informed by the Medium Term Financial Plan and developing funding environment in which the Council operated. It was intended that savings in excess of the targets set out in the report would be identified as the programme progressed and would feed into future tranches of service reviews.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Scrutiny Committee Corporate Performance and Resources for its consideration, with particular emphasis on the administration and implementation of the programme.
- (3) T H A T a copy of the report be sent to all elected Members, Clerks of Town and Community Councils, members of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee, Community Liaison Committee and the Public Services Board for their information and in order to provide an update on the progress being made on the Reshaping Services Programme.
- (4) T H A T the detailed service reviews described in the report be reported back as required to Cabinet for approval prior to implementation.

- (5) T H A T quarterly progress reports continue to be brought to Cabinet to provide updates on the progress of the Reshaping Services programme.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide an update on the progress of the Reshaping Services programme.
- (2) To provide the Scrutiny Committee Corporate Performance & Resources with an opportunity to consider the progress being made on the Reshaping Services Programme as lead Committee for the programme.
- (3) To provide these Committees, groups and the Public Services Board with an update on the progress being made on the Reshaping Services programme.
- (4) To ensure Cabinet approve any proposed changes resulting from Reshaping Services projects as appropriate.
- (5) To ensure Cabinet are kept informed of the progress being made on the programme.

**C3313 GRANTS TO COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
2016/17 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND
RESOURCES) –**

The Leader referred to Appendix A of the report, which had been previously circulated and appended as supplementary information.

Approval was sought in the awarding of grants from the 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 corporate revenue budget.

Menter Bro Morgannwg was an organisation that aimed to promote and expand the use of the Welsh Language throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vale of Glamorgan Council had worked with the organisation to develop an indicative Service Level Agreement (SLA) to be delivered by the organisation which was attached at Appendix A to the report.

It was proposed that for a three year period, albeit starting mid-year for 2016/17. The funding allocated would be profiled as follows; £17k in 2016/17, £34k in 2017/18, £34k in 2018/19 and £17k in 2019/20.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru worked throughout Wales to give children and young people the chance to learn and socialise in the Welsh Language. The voluntary organisation had been receiving £10k per annum to part fund a post under the Voluntary Action Scheme funding which ended in 2015/16. The balance of the funding for the post was provided by the Learning and Skills Directorate.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru had been receiving £10k per annum to part fund a post under the Voluntary Action Scheme which ended in 2015/16. It was proposed that £10k was awarded to ensure continuity of provision whilst alternative funding is identified for 2017/18 onwards.

After this item had been presented, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education commented that she was pleased the Council was collaboratively working with these organisations that benefitted the Council's capacity to provide more events through the medium of Welsh and also increased opportunities for Welsh Language Learners and Speakers.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T a 3 year allocation be agreed for Menter Bro Morgannwg of £17k in 2016/17, £34k in 2017/18, £34k in 2018/19 and £17k in 2019/20.
- (2) T H A T an allocation be agreed for Urdd Gobaith Cymru of £10k in 2016/17.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To award monies to assist Menter Bro Morgannwg.
- (2) To award monies to assist Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

C3314 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST AUGUST 2016 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ALL) –

Cabinet was advised of the progress related to revenue expenditure for the period 1 April to 31 August, 2016.

On 2 March, 2016 Council approved the Revenue and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets for 2016/17 (minute no 885 and 883 refer respectively).

The Learning and Skills Directorate was projecting an adverse variance of £672k at year end and the Social Services Directorate was anticipated to outturn with an adverse variance of circa £1m. Proposals to mitigate this position were outlined in the report. The HRA budget was projecting an outturn within target. This position by service area was shown in the following table:

Directorate/Service	2016/17	2016/17	Variance
	Original	Projected	(+) Fav
Adv	Budget	Outturn	(-)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning and Skills			
Education and Schools	94,346	95,062	(716)
Use of Reserves/Identified Savings	0	(672)	672
Libraries	2,051	2,051	0
Adult Community Learning	277	277	0
Youth Service	1,081	1,039	42
Catering	1,489	1,489	0
Arts Development	115	113	2
Social Services			
Children and Young People	14,858	14,858	0
Adult Services (1,000)	39,906	40,906	
Use of Reserves/Identified Savings	0	(1,000)	1,000
Business Management & Innovation	295	295	0
Youth Offending Service	696	696	0
Environment & Housing			

Visible Services	20,068	20,068	0
Transportation	4,834	4,834	0
Building Services	0	0	0
Regulatory Services	2,056	2,056	0
Council Fund Housing	744	744	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(22)	(22)	0
Managing Director & Resources			
Resources	982	982	0
Regeneration	2,172	2,172	0
Development Management	896	896	0
Private Housing	11,262	11,262	0
General Policy	16,660	16,660	0
Total	214,766	214,766	0
Met from General Reserve	-1,500	-1,500	0
Grand Total	213,266	213,266	0

Learning and Skills - The Directorate was projecting to outturn with an adverse variance of £672k at year end. £500k had been set aside in the Schools Placements reserve to be used as a one off contribution in 2016/17 to mitigate part of the shortfall while further Reshaping Services work was undertaken by the Directorate. If this shortfall could not be mitigated further in the year, further reserves could be utilised to balance the shortfall

Social Services - The Directorate was projecting to outturn with an adverse variance of £1 million at year end as a result of an overspend on the Community Care Package budget.

Environment and Housing - It was projected that this service would outturn within target at year end.

Managing Director and Resources - It was projected that this service would outturn within target at year end.

General Policy - It was anticipated that this service would outturn within budget.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED – T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2016/17 Revenue Budget be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the projected revenue outturn for 2016/17.

C3315 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST AUGUST 2016 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ALL) –

Cabinet was advised of the progress on the 2016/17 Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 31 August, 2016.

Appendix 1 attached to the report detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31 August, 2016.

For all schemes where it was evident that the full year's budget would not be spent during the year, the relevant officers were required to provide an explanation for the shortfall and this should be taken to the earliest available Cabinet.

Appendix 2 attached to the report provided non-financial information on capital construction schemes with a budget of over £100k. Where a budget shown in Appendix 1 was more than £100k but was made up of several schemes that individually were less than £100k, the scheme was not included in Appendix 2.

At the meeting, the Leader commented that he was pleased the Council was using Section 106 monies to best effect.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education also commented that, as a Penarth Ward Member, she was delighted that more monies had been allocated to fund the Penarth Cliff Top and Cwrt Y Vil play area schemes.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the following budgets be carried forward into 2017/18:-

- Colcot School - Carry forward budget of £125k.
- ICT Infrastructure - Carry forward budget of £400k.
- Fferm Goch - Carry forward budget of £47k.
- Five Mile Lane - Carry forward budget of £5.397m.

(2) T H A T the following changes to the 2016/17 Capital Programme be approved:-

- Digital Highway in Sheltered Accommodation - Include a new scheme for £31k, funded with £25k from a Welsh Government grant and £6k from revenue contributions to capital.
- Safe Routes to Communities - Increase the budget by £74k funded from s106 monies.
- Penlan Cycle/Footway - Increase the budget by £4k funded from s106 monies.
- Alps and Court Road Depot - Include a new scheme for £35k funded from the Visible Services Reserve.
- Romilly Mess Room - Include a new scheme for £75k funded from the Visible Services Reserve.
- Wordsworth Park - Include a new scheme for £75k funded from s106 monies.
- Play Area Upgrade - Increase the budget by £200k funded from Visible Services reserves.
- Play Area Upgrade - Increase the scheme at Cwrt Y Vil by £18k funded from S106 monies.
- Barry Regeneration Partnership - Vire £54k to the Castleland Renewal Area budget for Gladstone Gardens.
- Tackling Poverty - Vire £70k to the Barry Regeneration Partnership for Harbour Road Car Park Cycleway scheme.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow schemes to be undertaken in future years.

(2) To allow schemes to proceed in the current financial year.

**C3316 SUPPLY OF SERVERS FOR ORACLE E-BUSINESS SUITE (L)
(SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

Cabinet was advised of a proposed contract for the supply of servers and associated services for the Oracle E- Business Suite.

The servers that hosted the E-Business Suite were originally purchased in 2006 and the main database servers were refreshed in 2010 and while they had performed extremely well over that period it was becoming more difficult to obtain spares and more expensive to support them.

The risk of server failure increased with age and to avoid any problems with the hardware that supported the Council's main financial and HR systems, it was deemed appropriate to replace that hardware at this time.

The National Procurement Service of Wales (NPS) had released a new framework agreement for servers and storage devices and a tender on the basis of a further competition had been published to all suppliers on that framework.

Welsh Government had mandated that all Public Sector bodies should use framework agreements where appropriate so the procurement process in this instance had been greatly simplified for the Council.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted and considered alongside the Part II report to be heard later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To consider the report alongside the Part II report.

C3317 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015 – 2016: FOUNDATION PHASE AND KEY STAGES 2 – 5 (RE) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Council's ambition was that educational outcomes in the Vale of Glamorgan were the best in Wales and matched those of the most successful authorities in England with similar socio economic profiles. The Council also sought to ensure that all school performance was benchmarked in the high or highest benchmarking positions.

Statutory end of Key Stage Teacher Assessment (TA) was administered at the end of the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, when pupils were aged 7, 11 and 14 years old respectively.

The National minimum expectations for pupils at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 and 3 were as follows: Outcome 5 at the end of the Foundation Phase, Level 4 at the end of Key Stage 2 and Level 5 at the end of Key Stage 3.

Additionally, expectations for our more able pupils at the end of each phase were as follows: Outcome 6 or above at the end of the Foundation Phase, Level 5 or above at the end of Key Stage 2 and Levels 6 and 7 at the end of Key Stage 3.

In general, the Vale of Glamorgan was advantaged in terms of socio-economic deprivation. The proportion of pupils entitled to receive free school meals (FSM) was used as a proxy indicator of socio-economic deprivation. In 2015-16, the Vale ranked 5th lowest overall for the proportion of pupils entitled to receive free school meals (4th lowest at primary level and 6th lowest at secondary level). These findings indicated that the aggregated performance of Vale of Glamorgan schools should be significantly higher than for Wales as a whole and always rank in the five highest performing Local Authorities (LAs), as a minimum expectation.

When considering LA performance, the key indicators for consideration were as follows:

- Local Authority (LA) performance compared with the all Wales means and the LA performance compared to the top five highest performing LAs in Wales;
- LA performance trends over time, when compared with the all Wales means and prior performance;
- the relative gap in performance between LA means and the all Wales means;

- the spot rank position of the performance of the local Authority when compared with LAs across Wales; should, as a minimum, be within the top five highest performing LAs in Wales;
- for each indicator in each phase, the proportion of schools performing in the high or highest benchmarking positions when compared with similar schools and ranked against LAs across Wales.

For benchmarking purposes a school could be located in the top two quarters, i.e. the high or highest benchmarking position in the group or in the lower to lowest two quarters. Relative performance of similar schools was then described as being either above or below the median i.e. either in the top 50%, or in the bottom 50%, of similar schools.

Appendix 1 attached to the report outlined progress against targets at Foundation Phase and key stages 2-5, the report also highlighted those Schools that were causing concern and outlined the use of powers of intervention:

After this item was presented, the Interim Director of Learning and Skills noted that St Richard Gwyn was sent a formal warning notice in September 2015 and due to strong performance improvements this year, the formal warning would be removed.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T pupil attainment and school performance outcomes, based in the case of GCSE and A level examinations on provisional data, be noted.
- (2) T H A T it be noted that in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Act (2013), a formal warning notice was issued in 2015 and extended during the academic year to Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School and that the statutory intervention at Barry Comprehensive School had also been extended to include the appointment of two additional governors.
- (3) T H A T it be noted that St Richard Gwyn was removed from a formal warning process due to its strong performance improvement.

- (4) T H A T the report be referred to Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture for consideration and that the Committee be invited to reconvene an individual school progress panel meeting at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To note the attainment of pupils and the performance of schools in 2015/16.
- (2) To note that the full powers available to the authority were being used to improve schools that are underperforming, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Act (2013).
- (3) To note the strong performance improvements from St Richard Gwyn.
- (4) In order that Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture can review educational outcomes for Vale schools and, in relation to the named school, to review the progress that the school is making.

C3318 OFFICER DELEGATION TO WAIVE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT CONDITIONS (HSCH) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The Council had a statutory duty to consider and approve applications for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG). When a DFG was approved it was subject to grant conditions. Approval was sought for a new officer delegation to waive Disabled Facilities Grant ("DFG") conditions up to the value of £10,000 (which was the maximum amount that could be written off under the Managing Director and Section 151 Officer's delegated powers) in line with the Council's Housing Renewal Policy.

There was currently no specific delegated power to Officers contained within the Council's constitution to allow DFG grant conditions to be waived, as the delegation did not, as written, make specific reference to DFG's.

Accordingly, the report sought approval to amend the existing officer delegation which referred to housing repair and group repair grants, to allow the Head of Service responsible for the DFG service, Regeneration and Planning, the authority to approve a waiver of grant conditions for DFG's as well as and in addition to housing and group repair grants, in consultation with the Section 151 officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

This delegation would amend an existing officer delegation in the Council's constitution that enabled the waiver of grant conditions for repair grants and group repair grants from:

"To approve, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Building Maintenance and Community Safety, requests for waiving conditions relating to the repayment of money in relation to (house renovation) grants and group repair schemes in accordance with Council policy"

To:

"To approve, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing, and Social Care and Health, requests for waiving conditions relating to the repayment of money up to the value of £10,000 in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants, (house renovation) grants and group repair schemes in accordance with Council policy".

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED – T H A T the existing officer delegation identified as number 32 under (A) General in the delegations be amended to "To approve, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing, and Social Care and Health, requests for waiving conditions relating to the repayment of money up to the value of £10,000 in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants, (house renovation) grants and group repair schemes in accordance with Council policy".

Reason for decision

To ensure there is mechanism for the Council to consider and approve the waiver of Disabled Facilities Grant conditions where it was likely to result in a write off of a debt owed to the Council in accordance with Council Policy up to a limit of £10,000 (which is the maximum amount that can be written off by the Managing Director or Section 151 Officer under their existing delegated powers).

C3319 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED - T H A T the following matter, which the Chairman had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

C3320 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS PANEL MEETING (REF) –

Matter Which the Chairman has Decided was Urgent by Reason of the Need to Consider the Reference in Conjunction With the Report at Agenda Item No. 10: School Performance Report 2015-2016: Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 to 5

The Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture on 19 September, 2016 considered the above report of the Managing Director.

The report provided the Committee with an update of the School Progress Panel meeting that had been held at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School on 12th July, 2016.

The Chairman, in presenting the report, advised that a meeting had been convened as a result of the recommendations of the Panel in January 2015 to revisit the school following GCSE results in August 2015. The letter from the Director of Learning and Skills dated 20th August, 2015 had placed on record the agreed targets for 2016. At the previous Panel meeting in January 2015, the Chairman stated that at that time the Panel concluded that there was a measure of confidence that the school would meet the target in English, but had limited confidence in the school meeting the Mathematics target.

The Panel also welcomed all the measures and procedures that the school had put in place, i.e. new initiatives, the pods, the lesson observations and the ME+3 project that had been introduced. The Panel had also been pleased with the decision of the Governing Body to appoint a Standards Committee and were aware that meetings were taking place with the level of challenge as mentioned by the Chairman of Governors and as reported to the Panel at the meeting. In referring to attendance, the Panel wished to see this improved upon and would urge that further work was pursued to seek that improvement.

During the latest Panel meeting held in July 2016, the Headteacher had outlined that at Key Stage 3, results for 2016 at Level 5, showed the school in a positive position, with the school being placed in quartile position 1 for all of the four key subjects and also for the core subject indicator. With regard to Level 6, he had advised that the main challenge facing the school was within Mathematics, for which, the school was in benchmark quartile 4. Level 7 performance data for the school showed a strong

position with the school in benchmark quartile 1 for English, Mathematics and Science.

Data for Level 7 non-core subjects were also positive, apart from Information Technology which was in benchmark quartile 4. This would therefore be a key priority for the school during the next academic year, with actions for improvement included within the school's Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). The Headteacher further advised that the school compared favourably to its family of schools and that the school had some of the best Local Authority averages for girls.

In terms of Mathematics, the Panel was advised that the school had evaluated its strengths and weaknesses within this subject and a number of improvements had been initiated. This included an increase in the amount of curriculum time for Year 11, with pupils now having eight hours per fortnight rather than the six hours that had previously been provided. The school had also undertaken early entry examinations in November 2015.

The Panel, in conclusion, acknowledged the improved level of attendance and the work that had been undertaken for free school meal pupils, but the Panel was mindful of the school to be properly focused on positive outcomes for its pupils.

The Panel asked the school to note the shared disappointment following the GCSE results in August 2015 and also a fall in performance in Mathematics at Key Stage 4.

The Panel recognised the positive achievements at Key Stage 3, but also understood the amount of work required to improve the quality of marking. The school's PIAP formed a useful basis for the future work required by the school and the Panel was encouraged by the plans in place.

The Panel commented that challenges would continue ahead of Estyn's next monitoring visit which was critical to the school's future. Other challenges included the GCSE results for this summer and the need for further work on marking.

The Panel had also heard of the improvements in the Mathematics department and the Panel hoped these would come to fruition and that the new staff employed were also successful to the school's plans.

A follow up visit would be considered sometime during the Autumn term 2016, following the publication of the GCSE results in August. These results would be the subject of a report to Cabinet, following which determination would be made as to whether a follow up visit was required.

Following full consideration of the report, the Chairman gave thanks to the Members, officers and all involved in the process and for the very positive meeting that had taken place. The Chairman further advised that Performance Panels sought to give a level of confidence in whether the school would achieve their targets and were keen that a follow up visit following GCSE results would take place. The recent results that the Chairman was aware of had shown improvements in Mathematics but unfortunately the results had been disappointing for English. He therefore suggested that the Cabinet be urged to allow the Panel to carry out a follow up visit early in the school year. The Head of Service advised that a report had been prepared for 3rd October Cabinet with a recommendation that Cabinet approve that a follow up visit does take place at Bryn Hafren, following which the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Scrutiny Progress Panel findings as detailed in paragraphs 37 to 42 of the report be accepted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration and / or approval.
- (3) T H A T the Cabinet be requested to consider that a Scrutiny Progress Panel follow up visit is undertaken early in the school year.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To apprise Committee of the findings of the Progress Panel.
- (2) For Cabinet's consideration.
- (3) In order that a further follow up visit can be arranged if approved by Cabinet.

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Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee
Learning and Culture

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted, and it be confirmed that the third recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture was dealt with in Agenda Item 10 of the meeting: School Performance Report 2015-2016: Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 to 5.

Reason for decision

To note the contents of the report and confirm that the third recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture was dealt with in Agenda Item 10 of the meeting: School Performance Report 2015-2016: Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 to 5.

C3321 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED - T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

C3322 SUPPLY OF SERVERS FOR ORACLE E BUSINESS SUITE (L) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPH 14) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

Approval was sought to award a contract for the supply of servers and associated services for the Oracle E- Business Suite.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T a contract be awarded pursuant to National Procurement Service (NPS) of Wales Framework Agreement NPS–ICT–0019–15 – Lot 6: Servers and Storage Devices to Computacenter (UK) Ltd as the successful bidder at a cost as detailed in the report.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services in consultation with the Head of ICT to enter into a call-off contract under the NPS Framework Agreement with the successful bidder

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable the contract award to the successful bidder.
- (2) To have an appropriate contract in place with the successful bidder for the supply of servers and associated services.