

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting held on 6th September, 2006.

Present: Councillor H.J.W. James (Chairman); Councillors G.A. Cox, A.M. Ernest, A.D. Hampton, M.R. Harvey, T.H. Jarvie, G.C. Kemp, J.W. Thomas, A.C. Williams and A.J. Williams.

Also present: Councillor N.P. Hodges.

C2594 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

There were no apologies for absence.

C2595 MINUTES -

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

C2596 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

Councillor H.J.W. James

Agenda Item No. 22 - Capital Monitoring for the Period 1st April, 2006 to 31st July, 2006 - Governor of Rhoose Primary School.
(Dispensation had been granted to speak and vote)

Councillor G.C. Kemp

Agenda Item No. 22 - Capital Monitoring for the Period 1st April, 2006 to 31st July, 2006 - Governor of Rhoose Primary School.
(Dispensation had been granted to speak and vote)

C2597 PROMOTING PREVENTATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES - ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEMES (REF) -

Scrutiny Committee (Community Wellbeing and Safety), on 10th July, 2006 considered a report which provided Members with examples of potential future service developments that would, if implemented, maximise the effectiveness of expenditure on statutory children's services. The Committee had previously expressed a preference for promoting preventative development in Children's Services within the Vale of Glamorgan wherever

possible. It had expressed this commitment from a clear understanding that supporting children at home with their families was best for most children together with strongly evidenced information that investments in prevention produced savings in the long term that could be re-invested more effectively in the community. As a result, the report by the Head of Service was prepared to illustrate the kind of schemes that could be developed in a way that could be consistent with these considerations. Attached to the report was a copy of the Family Support Strategy of the Vale of Glamorgan, which had been considered and agreed in principle by Cabinet on 25th April, 2006 and which had been commended upon verbally by the Inspectors of the Joint Review Team. The 9 separate schemes identified in the report were as follows:

- Sure Start Short-term Intervention - designed to plug the gap between the broader level of prevention and intensive intervention - estimated cost £85k - minimum savings £156k net of £70k per annum;
- Young Carers - to enhance the current provision to support children looking after disabled / ill relatives, usually a parent - estimated cost £74k and minimum savings £156k = net saving of £70k per annum;
- Option 2 - to enhance the current service designed to support drug abusing parents to maintain their role as effective parents - estimated cost £149k and savings £750k = net saving of £601k p.a.;
- Occupational Therapy Support - to be extended support to children with disabilities living at home - estimated cost £9k; no figure was provided for potential savings although national research supported the kind of initiatives in terms of its beneficial impact on children and its contribution to enabling more children to stay at home with their families;
- Domestic Abuse Support Service - (1) and Colcot (2) - estimated cost £116k. Again, no figure had been provided for potential savings although the growing level of referrals to Children's Services and the prevalence of domestic abuse as a precipitating factor in Serious Case Reviews, as well as in situations where children required to be removed for their own protection, made this a priority area for preventative investment;
- Youth Inclusion Support Panel - UK wide model designed for Youth Offending Teams to prevent the development of offending / anti-social behaviour at the earliest age - cost £95k. Many of the savings would be hidden because of the absence of crime or anti-social behaviour and more direct savings would derive from a reduction in the number of young people entering remand provision at cost;
- Parenting Programme - to extend existing schemes through the YOT - cost £88k - no figure had been established for potential savings, although the service would enable parents to maintain their control and influence over their children which was likely to be a key factor in preserving family cohesion;
- Post Adoption Support Worker - required in order to implement the new statutory duty of the Adoption Act 2002 to support adoptive families - estimated cost £40k. It was noted that adoption breakdown was a source of admission into the care system and effective support would significantly reduce the likelihood of a breakdown.

Members welcomed the report and thanked the Head of Service for the work that had been undertaken in its production. They commended the initiative "Invest to Save" and were advised that should any of the schemes be agreed, they would be monitored for their effectiveness.

Scrutiny Committee (Community Wellbeing and Safety) had

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the contents of the report be welcomed and noted and Cabinet be requested to endeavour to implement as many of the schemes as possible.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Community Wellbeing and Safety)

RESOLVED - T H A T, in view of the budgetary implications, the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Community Wellbeing and Safety) be referred to the Budget Working Group for consideration.

C2598 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: WEST CAMP, ST. ATHAN - ST. DONATS - LLANTWIT MAJOR (REF) -

Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment) on 11th July, 2006 considered a request for consideration by Councillor G. John since he was contesting the Cabinet decision on 19th October, 2005 to accept the assessment by the inspector that the St. Donats to Llantwit Major Comprehensive School route was safe, and had grave concerns that the route from West Camp St. Athan had been now been declared safe.

As regards the route from St. Donats, Councillor John referred to continuing concerns relating to, for example, the condition of the road and the lack of pavements or footways, drawing attention to the fact that the inspection had been undertaken in July 2005 and that, therefore, no recognition had been given either to the weather conditions and resultant state of the road or the darkness of the route in the winter months.

Further evidence was presented of the concerns of the community of St. Donat's by John Clark and Maggie Coil, both local residents. Reference was made to the road being a typical country road - narrow, badly potholed and patched, with several blind corners and turnouts, overhanging trees and hedges and, again typical for a country road, frequently covered in mud and animal excrement. The point was also made that whilst vehicular traffic might not be particularly heavy most of the time, there were no restrictions in force to limit traffic speed given that this was a narrow country road and had been assessed as a safe walking route for schoolchildren, albeit accompanied by an adult. Reference was also made to a recent very serious accident and to innumerable instances of less serious incidences involving vehicles along the route. Other matters raised included the desirability for the Guidelines to be adapted to fit individual cases. The Guidelines made no reference to the

particular circumstances of this route which was largely walled on both sides and there was, therefore, no escape off the road for most of its 2.8 mile route.

As regards the West Camp St. Athan to Llantwit Major Comprehensive School route, (in addition to attention being drawn to the fact that there were actually 2 routes in use), Members were informed that the works identified as required to make that part of the route previously considered "unsafe" by the inspector had been undertaken. The route was now, therefore, considered to be safe. Councillor. John drew attention to the lack of for example, a pelican crossing, and it was generally agreed that the Engineering Design Team should look into the matters raised.

Reference was also made to the discussion held at the meeting of the Committee when the independent Inspector had been present (4th October, 2005 - Minute No. 420). Concerns relating to the Michaelston-Le-Pit to the Murch route had been raised and amongst the issues noted was the fact that the Inspector had indicated that a further traffic speed and volume survey would be required on the route along Pen-y-Turnpike Road within the current academic year.

Following further discussion on the above and related matters, including school transport arrangements and an acceptance of the fact that the Council undertook an objective and independent method of assessing routes to schools in accordance with national guidelines in order to ensure complete impartiality, Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment) had

RECOMMENDED - THAT Cabinet be requested to authorise a further assessment of each of the three above routes as early as possible in the new school year.

RESOLVED - T H A T the independent assessor be advised of the concerns of the Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment) and asked if the comments made by the Scrutiny Committee would have affected his judgement on the routes in question.

C2599 PROPOSED QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING PROCESS (REF) -

Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources), on 18th July, 2006, received a report which advised of a proposed revised process for monitoring service performance. The "Performance Monitoring - One Framework for All" policy document had been agreed in October 2003 by the Cabinet. It outlined a new process for quarterly performance monitoring. However, the high volume of work that was currently being undertaken by each Scrutiny Committee, was noted to be affecting the quality of scrutiny. As a result, Scrutiny members, Democratic Services Officers and Improvement and Development Policy Officers had been concerned by the length of some committee agendas. The issue would also be further exacerbated by the introduction of an additional Service Plan during 2006/07 for the Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources)

which would have eight service areas to monitor. The report therefore, advised of a proposed revised process for monitoring service provision as detailed below:

- Quarter 1 - Performance Indicators only
- Quarter 2 - Performance Indicators and exception reporting on actions
- Quarter 3 - Performance Indicators and exception reporting on actions
- Quarter 4 - Full report as current.

Members were happy to accept the revised process of reporting to Committee but raised concerns in respect of who would decide on exception reporting. They requested that the IDT act as a checks and balance function to ensure that all aspects are recorded and that all exceptions are reported to Committee. They also requested that as and when available performance information other than exception reporting, could be forwarded direct to Members for information. In relation to the new software that was under consideration and may be introduced in respect of Performance Management, Members were advised that once it had been approved, training sessions would be made available for Members to attend.

Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources) had

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the revised process for reporting quarterly performance information be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the new arrangements be reviewed within 12 months.
- (3) T H A T the Improvement and Development Team ensure that all exception reporting is addressed.
- (4) T H A T recommendation (2) be referred to Cabinet.”

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources),

RESOLVED - T H A T consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

C2600 SALARY SACRIFICE CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES (REF) -

Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources) on 18th July, 2006 considered a report which outlined options for progressing childcare support for employees. At Cabinet on 22nd June, 2005, the budget had been set at £7,000 per annum to pay towards the childcare costs of a limited number of employees who remained on the scheme (Childcare Voucher Scheme). The report outlined that actual expenditure on allocated vouchers of the previous three financial

years had been 2003/04 £11,750; 2004/05 £11,481; 2005/06 £10,485. It was noted that the scheme was currently running at full capacity with an additional seven employees who had formally applied on a waiting list and five further employees who had asked to be notified should further places become available.

The Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources) on 4th April, had requested information with regard to the Council's current childcare scheme and the viability of introducing a salary sacrifice-based childcare scheme. The provision of a broader and more effective childcare scheme would assist the corporate objective of recruiting and retaining key staff within the Corporate Plan and the service objectives of promoting equality and diversity in employment. Members welcomed the report and

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the Council implements a salary sacrifice scheme for childcare support through the normal procurement processes.
- (2) T H A T the recognised trade unions be consulted regarding the proposed introduction.
- (3) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations be referred to Cabinet."

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources),

RESOLVED - T H A T consideration of this matter be deferred pending receipt of a report giving precise details of the cost of the Scrutiny Committee proposals.

C2601 INFORMAL CHARTER BETWEEN TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (REF) -

This item had been included on the agenda of the Community Liaison Committee on 19th July, 2006 at the request of Barry Town Council.

Barry Town Council had given consideration to a scheme which outlined informal consultation procedures between Torfaen County Borough Council and Community Councils within its area.

The Barry Town Councillors had been impressed with the detail of the Charter, in particular the availability of a named officer in each unitary Council Department to deal as a first point of contact with queries from Town and Community Councils in the Torfaen area.

The representatives of Barry Town Council stated that they were looking for the establishment of a charter along the lines of the one that had been established in Torfaen.

The Chairman reported that he had received a communication from Welsh St. Donats Community Council saying that it felt that the establishment of a Charter would be useful but also felt that the concept needed to be looked at in more detail. It was also felt that communications should take the form of e-mail wherever possible. Members of the Committee were generally supportive of the concept of the establishment of an informal Charter but recognised that much work would be required if a Charter which met the needs and culture of the Vale of Glamorgan in a meaningful way were to be produced.

It was proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council conduct a survey of all Town and Community Councils within its area to identify what the Town and Community Councils would need and use and that a small working group be established to consider the responses and produce a draft Charter for consideration at a future meeting of the Community Liaison Committee.

The Committee requested Cabinet to consider the above proposal.

Cabinet, having considered the request,

RESOLVED - T H A T consideration of the merits of the introduction of an informal charter between Town/Community Councils and the Vale of Glamorgan Council be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive.

**C2602 CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR REGENERATION,
TOURISM AND LEISURE: 27TH JULY, 2006 -**

RESOLVED - T H A T the following report be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Present: *Cllr. M.R. Harvey (Chairman)*
Cllr. G.A. Cox
Chris Fray (Head of Development & Leisure)
Keri Hutchings (Cabinet Support Officer)
Dave Knevett (Operational Manager: Leisure & Tourism)
Claire Evans (Tourism & Marketing Manager)
Karen Davies (Sports, Arts & Play Development Manager)

Apologies for Absence:

*Cllr. H.J.W. James, Cllr, Cllr. A.M. Ernest, Cllr. M. Kelly-Owen,
Sarah Jones, Emma Smith.*

(a) MINUTES-

Recommended – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2006 be approved.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST-

None were declared.

(c) Reappointment of the Cabinet Advisory Committee:

The Terms of Reference and Membership for all Cabinet Advisory Committees' are re-established annually following the Annual Meeting. The Cabinet Advisory Committee for Regeneration, Tourism & Leisure received this report to agree its Terms of Reference and Membership. The Report is attached at Attached at appendix A.

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

1. *That the Cabinet Advisory for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure agree to re-establish the Committee for 2006/07 and that the Terms of Reference for the Committee are amended to incorporate the Economic Development and Leisure Service Areas.*

Reason for Recommendation

1. *To provide clarity on the role of this Committee.*

(d) Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy:

The Committee were presented with a report advising them of the Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy and the current consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Strategy. The Report and accompanying letter is attached at Appendix B

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

- (1) *That the preparation of a Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy and accompanying Environmental Assessment be supported subject to the Strategy being developed in a way which does not conflict with the objectives of the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan and provides a supporting framework for the Council's Community Strategy and emerging Tourism Strategy*

Reason for recommendation

- (1) *To continue to support the sustainable development of Tourism Opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan.*

(e) Tourist Information Point – Cardiff International Airport:

The Committee received a report to consider the future of the Tourist Information Point (TIP) at the airport and also debate the potential opportunities for economic growth within the Vale of Glamorgan. The report outlines two options and can be found in the attached report at appendix C.

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

- (1) *That the Council investigate enhanced tourist information provision to provide a more helpful and welcoming service to visitors entering the Wales via Cardiff International Airport.*
- (2) *That the Tourism and Marketing Manager from Capital Region Tourism (CRT) is contacted to pursue their financial offer of an annual grant of £4500 for the period 2006/07.*
- (3) *That a letter is written to The Director of Tourism and Marketing at Visit Wales to seek further support for the TIP and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister of Economic Development & Transport at the Welsh Assembly Government.*
- (4) *That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism & Leisure meets with equivalent Cabinet Members from Cardiff City Council and Bridgend County Borough Council to informally discuss the TIP at Cardiff International Airport.*

Reason for Recommendation

- (1) *To enhance and develop the tourist information provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.*
- (2-4) *To enable the Committee to progress matters.*

(f) Gold Card Scheme

The Cabinet Advisory Committee for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure received a report seeking approval to implement changes to the Gold Card Scheme. The report is attached at appendix D.

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

- (1) *That the Vale of Glamorgan Sports Academy be established from 1st January, 2007 as detailed in the report.*

- (2) *The decision of awarding academy status will be recommended by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism & Leisure, along with the Operational Manager for Leisure & Tourism, the Leisure Centres Manager and the Sports, Arts and Play Development Manager.*

Reasons for Recommendation

- (1) *That the Vale of Glamorgan Sporting Academy will be a fairer mechanism for deciding which individual athletes should be supported in terms of free use of leisure facilities.*
- (2) *To help clarify matters regarding eligibility for the scheme.*
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ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT -

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

- (g) *Cabinet Advisory Committee for Regeneration, Leisure & Tourism Forward Work Programme.*

Urgent by reason of the need for the Committee to receive information for future meetings

- (i) *Barry Waterfront Festival*

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

- 1) *That Officers research the prospect of a Tourist Information Point (TIP) at the Waterfront Festival to help promote other areas and events within the Vale of Glamorgan.*

Reason for Recommendation

- 1) *To enable the Committee to progress matters.*

- ii) *Dyffryn House*

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation:

- 1) *That Cabinet consider a visit the Education Block at Dyffryn House and Gardens at an Informal meeting in September 2006.*

Reason for Recommendation

- 1) *To enable Members to visit the site at the earliest opportunity.*

- (h) *FAW Trust - Football: Meeting the Vale of Glamorgan's Strategic Objectives*

The Committee were presented with a report from the Football Association of Wales (FAW) Trust outlining the objectives set by the Vale of Glamorgan. The Report is attached at appendix E.

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendation

- 1) *That support for the successful football development scheme, which operates in partnership between the Council and the Football Association of Wales Trust, be extended for a further three years until 2008/9.*

Reason for Recommendation

- 1) *To further develop the football development scheme.*

C2603 CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE: 12TH JUNE, 2006 -

RESOLVED - T H A T the following report be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

Present: *Cllr. A.M Ernest (Chairman)
Cllr. H.J.W. James (Leader)
Cllr. J.W. Thomas
Cllr. P. Church
Steven Morris (Head of Building & Vehicle Services)
Keri Hutchings (Cabinet Support Officer)
John Payne (Principal Officer)*

Apologies for Absence:

Received from Cllr. G.A. Cox & Cllr. J. Clifford

- (a) **MINUTES-**
That the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February, 2006 be approved.
- (b) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**
None were declared.
- (c) **Building Services Detailed Action Improvement Plan**

The Committee received a report to advise members of the outcome of discussions between the Chief Executive's department and Building Services concerning updating of the Building Services Action Improvement Plan and to seek approval to disperse the remaining relevant actions into Building Services service and team plans. The report is attached at appendix 1.

Recommendation – that Cabinet be requested to consider the following proposal(s):

- (1). To approve the proposed amendments to the Building Services Detailed Action Improvement Plan detailed at Appendix B to this report and endorses the amalgamation of remaining actions to the relevant Service Plan and Team Plans.*

Amendments as follows: (see appendix)

- Page 38 : 1.7 (now completed)*
- Page 39 : CS1 (completed)*
- Page 39 : SD3 (completed)*
- Page 39 : SD4 (deleted from list)*

Reasons for Recommendation

- (1). To ensure that the Service continues to improve and has relevant plans that reflect the needs of the Service in its current state which is significantly different than that in place at the time of the approval of the original Action Plan.*

d) Vehicle Replacement Programmes 2005 to 2008

The Committee received a report on the vehicles and items of plant scheduled that were replaced in 2005/06 and replacement programme for 2006/07 and to advise on amendments of the relevant Capital allocations for these periods. The report is attached at appendix 2

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following proposals:

- (1). That the final Vehicle Replacement Programme for 2005/06 be noted.*
- (2). That the Vehicle Replacement Programme for 2006/07 be noted and an additional column be inserted in the appendix to include the year of manufacture.*
- (3). That details of the 2007/08 Vehicle Replacement Programme be included in the 2007/08 Capital Budget Review Capital Programme Report submitted to Council later in the year.*

Reasons for Recommendations

- (1). *To apprise Cabinet Advisory Committee of the 2005/06 of the details of the final arrangements the 2005/06 Vehicle Replacement Programme as detailed in paragraph 09 of this report.*
- (2). *To advise Cabinet Advisory Committee of the proposed 2006/07 Vehicle Replacement Programme appended as Appendix A.*
- (3). *To include a budget in the 2007/08 Capital Programme for Vehicle Replacement to overcome the problems in the time delay between ordering and the delivery of vehicles.*

e) *Building Maintenance Deficit Report*

The Committee received a report inform the Cabinet Advisory Committee for Building Maintenance and Fleet Management of the proposals to reduce the deficit of the Building Maintenance trading account. The report is attached at appendix 3

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following proposals

1. *That Cabinet note the financial positions of Building Maintenance and the measures that are being pursued, to reduce any future deficit.*

Reason for Recommendation

1. *To ensure that Cabinet remain informed of the trading position and financial controls for services that are operating in deficit.*

f) *Security Services Accreditation to Security Industry Training Organisation (SITO) Standard*

The Committee received a report to seek endorsement of the Cabinet to achieve Security Industry Training Organisation (SITO) accreditation for Security Services.

Recommended – That Cabinet be requested to consider the following proposals

- (1). *That cabinet note the content of this report and endorse SITO Registration for Security Services.*
- (2). *That this report be referred to the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the performance framework monitoring procedures.*

Reasons for Recommendations

- (1). *To apprise Cabinet of the proposal to seek SITO accreditation for Security services.*
- (2). *To ensure compliance with the performance framework monitoring procedures.*

C2604 REVIEW OF ASSISTED AREAS (CX) (SCRUTINY - CORPORATE RESOURCES) -

Cabinet were provided with an update on the latest proposals regarding the review of Assisted Areas.

On 15th February, 2006, the UK government announced that it was carrying out a review of the Assisted Areas of the UK in response to new European Commission guidelines on regional aid. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) opened a consultation to seek views from interested parties on a number of specific issues, including:

- the indicators to be used when allocating Assisted Area status
- the choice of geographical unit to be used in designating Assisted Areas.

On 10th July, 2006, the DTI opened the consultation on the second stage of the Assisted Area review, the proposed map.

The proposed UK Assisted Areas map for 2007 -2013 covered 52 wards in east Wales under the Tier 2 areas, covering a population of around 170,000. No areas were proposed for the Vale of Glamorgan, and Cardiff faced a decrease from 8 wards to 1.

The Welsh Assembly Government's approach to the Assisted Area review had been to attempt to keep the same population coverage for east Wales, but with that coverage moved around slightly in order to meet the needs of the European Commission.

The proposed map underlined the importance WAG placed on the Deeside Industrial Park and Broughton to the Welsh economy. The proposed coverage in Flintshire was considerably increased to satisfy the wishes of the Commission to see a thicker corridor of coverage adjacent to the Objective 1 areas of West Wales and the Valleys.

The second area where WAG had to reconsider its proposed coverage was the narrow corridor around the Lisvane/Old St. Mellons area of Cardiff down to the coastal area of Cardiff Bay. As the Commission wanted to see a thicker corridor linking proposed coverage in east Wales to the Objective 1 area, and as WAG was very keen to see the old Llanwern site and the old LG site in Newport covered, it had decided to propose less coverage for Cardiff and no coverage for both the Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

Whilst recognising that it would be extremely difficult to acquire, Cabinet noted that amendments would be sought to the proposed map and the inclusion of St. Athan and employment areas at the former Llandow airfield.

The following wards were therefore proposed for Assisted Area coverage: St. Brides Major, Llandow/Ewenny, St. Athan and Llantwit Major. The total population coverage sought for the Vale of Glamorgan was approximately 20,000.

St. Athan was sought due to the regional importance of the proposed aerospace business park. The proposals at St. Athan had the capacity to generate several thousand skilled and highly paid jobs in the medium/longer term and would build on the cluster of aviation-related businesses in south Wales, complementing for example those already in existence at Talbot Green (British Airways Avionics), Nantgarw (GE Aircraft Engine Services) and Cardiff International Airport (British Airways Maintenance).

Llandow/Ewenny were proposed due to their adjacency to west Wales and the Valleys and concern that businesses located at employment areas at the former Llandow airfield would relocate to an Objective 1 area with the ability to offer significant higher rates of aid.

This matter was for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the proposals regarding Assisted Area coverage be noted and that the response to the consultation submitted be endorsed.

Reason for decision

To support the submission of a response by the Council to the proposed Assisted Areas map.

C2605 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2006 (CX) (SCRUTINY - CORPORATE RESOURCES) -

Cabinet were informed of the Forward Work Programme of the Cabinet/Council for the period September - December 2006, and were also informed of those reports still to be received from the previous Forward Work Programme covering May to July 2006.

This matter was for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Forward Work Programme for the period September to December 2006, together with the publication of details of availability of the Programme be noted.

(2) T H A T the reasons supplied by officers for the non-submission of the items from the previous Work Programme May to July 2006 be noted.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) To comply with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2000, subordinate legislation and the Council's Constitution.

C2606 CHILDREN FIRST PROGRAMME 2006/07 (DCS) (SCRUTINY - COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND SAFETY) -

Cabinet were informed of the proposals for the Children First Programme for 2006/07.

The Vale Children First provisional costed Management Action Plan had been submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government on 23rd May, 2006. The Welsh Assembly Government had been informed that the Vale Children First Management Action Plan was delayed pending Cabinet approval.

Following discussions between the Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Assembly Government, it had been decided that Children First grant funding would continue for 2005/06, but that one third of the budget would be transferred to Revenue Support Grant each year until 2007/08. For 2006/07 the grant element for the Vale was £565,871 and the unhypothecated RSG element was £1,018,780. As from 2007/08, there would be no grant element.

The proposed spending schedule for 2006/07 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. It set out the current level of Children First-related financial commitments against established schemes that were endorsed by Cabinet in previous years. In addition, the plan identified three areas of limited growth where the service was either under pressure, potentially failing to meet need or where the viability of a service was under threat as follows:

Young Carers - The local authority was failing to fully meet the needs of young carers. Young carers were children (anyone aged under 18 years), who provide practical and emotional support to a family member because of disability, illness or substance misuse factors. The disabled or ill person was usually an adult, but could be a child, in the case of siblings. Under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995, carers assessments should be offered at the time the disabled or ill person's assessment was being assessed. The Vale was failing to assess young carers and the Council was therefore in breach of the legislation. Assessments for young carers would involve working with children and parents across service boundaries, with Adult Services, with schools, the Education Welfare Service and Health Services.

For several years, NCH had run a small project to support young carers in the Vale of Glamorgan. The project enabled young carers to spend time with each other, away from their caring responsibilities. The project currently

worked with 60 young carers, was working to full capacity and was unable to work with any more within current resources. Demographic and other data showed that there was likely to be at least double this number of young carers in the Vale than were currently known to the NCH project. The current funding for the project was £38,6000, £18,223 of which was from Children's Services and £20,377 from Cymorth.

Teenage Mothers and Their Babies - The Partnership for Young Parents (Gladstone Project) worked with teenage mothers and their babies in partnership with Sure Start, the Education Welfare Service and Barry College. The project had been running for nearly three years, and the Big Lottery Funding was due to run out in September 2006. Failure to meet this funding shortfall would undermine the viability of the project as a whole. It was hoped that Cymorth funding would become available in January 2007, with the introduction of the Flying Start Funding Stream. In order to maintain the project between September and December 2006, "bridge funding" of £20,000 was needed. The Children and Young People's Framework Partnership had made an undertaking to give first priority to the Partnership for Young Parents when considering the usage of available funding later in this financial year. Due to its success in enabling mothers and babies to sustain their relationships without the course to more interventionist services, the project was highly regarded by a wide section of the community and had gained external recognition, its role and function being highly consistent with the recently agreed Family Support Strategy.

Children of Parents Engaging in Substance Misuse - Option 2 provided a service to families (with children) who are in crisis because of drug or substance misuse issues. The service was funded totally by sources accessed through the Community Safety Partnership, although Option 2 was based with Children's Services in Haydock House. For capacity reasons, Option 2 was able to respond to only one third of the referrals received. £10,000 would enable the service to continue at the current level and cover the forthcoming maternity leave. In 2005/06 50 families were referred to Option 2. The service was able to work with only 20 families, and 76% of the children stayed with their families. The role and function of Option 2 was highly consistent with the recently agreed Family Support Strategy.

In 2006/07, it was proposed that the following be allocated from the grant

- £8,000 for Young Carers Assessments
- £3,889 to extend the NCH Young Carers Support project
- £20,000 as "bridge funding" for the Partnership for Young Parents
- £10,000 to cover Option 2 maternity leave.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Children First Spending Schedule as shown in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T, in view of the future changes to the Children First Programme the Director of Community Services be asked to review spending having regard to the future Directorate priorities.

Reason for decision

(1) So that budgetary implications of the costed Management Action Plan receives approval.

(2) To assess how the future needs of the Children First Programme accord with the priorities of the Directorate.

C2607 CYMORTH GRANT 2006-07 (DCS) (SCRUTINY - COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND SAFETY) -

Cabinet approval was sought to draw down £2,003,516 Cymorth Grant for 2006/07.

The Framework Partnership must submit an annual Cymorth plan to the Welsh Assembly Government in October. The plan for 2006/07 was submitted in October 2005.

Projects allocated funding in 2006/07 were:

• Central cost including evaluation	£246,009
• Projects meeting statutory duties under the Childcare Strategy	£188,357
• Gibbonsdown Children's Centre	£ 56,187
• Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre	£105,268
• Sure Start	£619,013
• Educational projects (behaviour and attendance)	£170,667
• Young carers	£ 20,377
• SMART club for disabled children	£ 13,387
• Crisis intervention	£ 56,496
• CAMHS	£170,691
• Alternative education provision	£247,609
• Play projects	£109,455

Under the terms of the Welsh Assembly Grant, the Framework Partnership had submitted an annual progress report on the previous year's outcomes.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the Cymorth proposals for 2006/07 be endorsed.

Reason for decision

To enable implementation of the Cymorth Plan for 2006/07.

C2608 “FULFILLED LIVES, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES” - A STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN WALES OVER THE NEXT DECADE (DCS) (SCRUTINY - COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND SAFETY) -

Cabinet’s views were sought on the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Consultation Paper “Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities” - A Strategy for Social Services in Wales Over the Next Decade.

The consultation document proposed four main propositions, which would form the future direction for Social Services in Wales:

- The document concluded that the present boundaries of social services were about right, but that more emphasis needed to be placed in influencing national and local policy and in supporting partnerships that promoted community cohesion and social inclusion. The document argued that services needed to be rebalanced towards earlier support to improve outcomes and grasp opportunities for prevention rather than simply concentrating on those with the most intense needs. The document aimed to draw fewer children into services which substitute for family care keeping more children within their own families and help more people remain at home. Behind these proposals lay assumptions about how responsibilities should be allocated between the citizen and the state. Parents were responsible for rearing their children. The state should act vigorously to support them in discharging those responsibilities, only substituting for them where it was essential to do so. The document assumed that social services would be available to anyone whose difficulties qualified them for help, regardless of how those difficulties came about.
- The second proposition on which the paper was founded was that social service ought to remain a responsibility of local government in Wales. WAG suggested a number of ways of strengthening the way in which those responsibilities were exercised and improving outcomes for users. Whilst there had been a history of mixed performance, social services now had a much higher priority which was linked to record levels of investment and care delivery. The connections that local government provided to education, housing, economic opportunity and their new statutory duties to work more closely with other agencies such as the NHS as substantial strengths on which to build. Over recent years stronger links had also been established with the independent and voluntary sectors to the benefit of clients. For these reasons WAG concluded that local councils should continue to be the main vehicle through which social services were commissioned. The rationale for this approach was that, for reasons of democratic accountability, core service continuity and links with other key services such as housing and education and the wider social inclusion agenda, local government remained the right place for social services.
- The third proposition was that local authorities should remain both providers and purchasers of social services, employing some staff directly and buying in other services from the voluntary and independent sectors.

Discussion was required around is the current “mixed economy” model correct or should there be a further shift in favour of “enabling” authorities, in which services would be procured by tender and contract, rather than largely provided by the local authority themselves? If so, which services should be considered for resourcing and which should remain in-house? Should there be more encouragement for the involvement of not for profit providers, or should there be a revival of the role of the public sector itself?

- Finally, the paper proposed a model for staffing social services which sees it, essentially, as a highly trained and skilled occupation, led by social workers qualified through three-year degree programmes and supported by a wider range of other social and residential care staff. Other professions have moved in, in recent years, towards more plural patterns of service provisions. Pharmacists have new prescribing rights. Nurses run minor injury units. Classroom assistants free up teachers time. Should social services follow this pattern? For example, this document concluded that qualified and skilled social workers were needed to work with vulnerable children and their families because of that vulnerability and because of the complex judgements which those working in such circumstances have to make, day in and day out. Is it agreed that the extent to which social workers have to work alongside and negotiate with other professionals, demands the best trained, critically reflective practitioners, exercising judgement? Or is there a case for redefining and refocusing our work force assumptions, employing fewer more highly qualified people, freed up to do what only they are able to do supported by more people to undertake a narrower range of less demanding functions.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the views of the Scrutiny Committee (Community Wellbeing and Safety) and its partner organisations be sought on the “WAG consultative document “Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities” - A Strategy for Social Services in Wales Over the Next Decade.

Reason for decision

To ensure all elected Members are consulted.

C2609 PUBLICATION OF NEW NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

- **MINISTERIAL INTERIM PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT (MIPPS) 01/2006 - HOUSING**
- **TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE (TAN) 1 JOINT HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY STUDIES**
- **TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE (TAN) 2 PLANNING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING (DEER) (SCRUTINY - ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT) -**

Cabinet were advised of the publication by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) of Technical Advice Notes (TANs):

- Joint Housing Land Availability Studies
- Planning and Affordable Housing
- Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement 01/2006.

Council's formal response to the consultation draft of the above documents was reported to Cabinet on 5th October, 2005 and to Planning Committee on 19th October, 2005.

The Council on the whole welcomed the approach and content of the consultation documents, particularly in relation to the proposed changes to TAN 2. The Council did however raise a number of points, which had largely been addressed within the final documents, these being:

- that the definition of affordable housing should also recognise the importance of low cost market housing
- support for the inclusion of site specific thresholds within development plans for affordable housing
- the allocation of land for the sole purpose of affordable housing, and
- support of the use of joint housing land availability studies as a mechanism for the annual monitoring of forthcoming Local Development Plans.

The MIPPS provided a revision to Chapter 9 (Housing) in Planning Policy Wales 2002, that sets out the WAG's strategic planning policy framework and objectives for housing within Wales.

The new TANs supplement these policies by providing detailed technical advice regarding how national policies should be interpreted and implemented at local level by planning authorities through development plans and through the use of planning obligations and conditions. New revised TANs also set out the role of registered social landlords and other stakeholders, emphasising the importance of collaborative working during the formulation of housing strategies and development plan policies.

The main changes to Planning Policy Wales and the revised TANs are:

- the introduction within Planning Policy Wales of a national land use planning definition of what constitutes affordable housing
- a requirement for local planning authorities to set out in their development plans their own definitions of "local need" for affordable housing in rural areas
- an emphasis for local authorities to work collaboratively between housing and planning functions as well as registered social landlords and other local stakeholders including private house builders when preparing local housing strategies and development plans
- a requirement for local authorities to produce and maintain and up to date local housing market assessment to inform both local authority housing strategies and development plans

- regional collaboration for the apportionment of the Assembly Government's household projections for each local planning authority to agreed their own regional policy based projections
- allowance for the establishment of regional groups to undertake housing land availability studies across an area wider than an individual authority. Where such an approach was adopted, the TAN required for any regional conclusion to be desegregated to each local planning authority
- a requirement for local planning authorities to incorporate the JHLAS findings into their LDP Annual Monitoring Report
- a requirement for local planning authorities to monitor the provision of affordable housing provided through the planning system
- a requirement for local planning authorities to include within their development plans authority wide affordable housing targets, including site thresholds and/or site specific targets where these are justified by the local housing market assessments
- where appropriate, the identification within development plans of suitable small sites for up to 100% affordable housing.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the publication of the final version of Technical Advice Notes 1 and 2 and Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement 01/2006 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Planning Committee for information.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Technical Advice Notes and Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statements constitute government policy and are a material planning consideration.
- (2) To ensure that Members of the Planning Committee are kept informed of developments in national planning policy.

**C2610 COMMUNITIES FIRST PROGRAMME: GIBBONSDOWN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER SCHEME (REF: CF006) (DLD)
(SCRUTINY - LIFELONG LEARNING) -**

Cabinet approval was sought to submit funding applications and, if successful, to receive the funding on behalf of the Communities First Partnership Board for Gibbonsdown.

The host management of the Communities First Programme was transferred from the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services to the Council's Lifelong Learning Service from 1st April, 2005.

Cabinet agreed in July 2005 that the Communities First Partnerships be encouraged to seek available community capacity building funding.

The Gibbonsdown Communities First Partnership Board had agreed a proposal to seek Welsh Assembly Government's Capacity Activity Funding until 31st March, 2008 to employ a full-time Community Development worker.

The aim of the proposal was to assist with the development of projects identified within the local action plan for the Gibbonsdown Communities First area and to ensure project activity reflected the needs of the area. In addition, the development worker would improve resident participation in the area.

The total amount of funding sought was £116,115. In order to adhere to the Council's financial regulations, Cabinet approval was required to seek and accept external funds in excess of £50,000.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the submission of the funding application to the Welsh Assembly Government and, if successful, the receipt of the funding on behalf of the Partnership Board be approved.

(2) T H A T the fixed term nature of the funding be made clear and that no expectations be given that funding for the scheme would continue following cessation of the grant funding.

Reason for decision

(1) To adhere to the Council's financial regulations.

(2) In order to prevent misconceptions about the future of the scheme.

C2611 COMMUNITIES FIRST PROGRAMME: GIBBONSDOWN CHILDREN'S CENTRE SCHEME (REF: CF007) (DLD) (SCRUTINY - LIFELONG LEARNING) -

Cabinet approval was sought to submit funding applications and, if successful, to receive the funding on behalf of the Communities First Partnership Board for Gibbonsdown.

The host management of the Communities First Programme was transferred from the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services to the Council's Lifelong Learning Service from 1st April, 2005.

Cabinet agreed in July 2005 that the Communities First Partnerships be encouraged to seek available community capacity building funding.

The Gibbonsdown Communities First Partnership Board had agreed a proposal to seek Welsh Assembly Government's Capacity Building Funding until 31st March, 2008 to assist with the core funding costs, employment of a part-time play worker and to provide two free full time child care places per day for those deemed most in need.

The Children's Centre aimed to provide accessible child care and play opportunities for children, empowering parents/carers to undertake work or training in order for them to become self reliant and enterprising individuals. The aim of the proposal was to enable the most deprived families to access the services at the centre and ensure that every local child was able to take part in those activities. In order to carry out the activities detailed above, the employed worker would assist in providing quality child care ensuring the children's individual needs were met.

The total amount of funding sought was £118,420. In order to adhere to the Council's financial regulations, Cabinet approval was required to seek and accept external funds in excess of £50,000.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the submission of the funding application to the Welsh Assembly Government and, if successful, the receipt of the funding on behalf of the Partnership Board be approved.

(2) T H A T the fixed term nature of the funding be made clear and that no expectations be given that funding for the scheme would continue following cessation of the grant funding.

Reason for decision

(1) To adhere to the Council's financial regulations.

(2) In order to prevent misconceptions about the future of the scheme.

C2612 THE PULSE PROJECT (DLD) (SCRUTINY - LIFELONG LEARNING) -

Cabinet approval was sought for the Council to receive a successful youth service application to the Big Lottery Fund for a three-year funded detached youth worker project entitled "The Pulse Project".

The Council's youth service had been successful in securing a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for £289,000 to cover the cost of "The Pulse Project", a three-year funded detached youth work project which, working with partners would target, engage and support those young people aged 11-19 "at risk" of social exclusion, on the streets throughout the Vale.

The project would assist the Council in meeting its objectives for Lifelong Learning and Health and Wellbeing by:

- consulting, researching and working in partnership, set up and operate a detached team of specialist youth workers to target, engage and provide activities/information to young people on the streets
- working with young people not currently engaged in youth support services, residing in problematic, high crime/incident areas and at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system and its associated risks
- engaging with young people in at least 24 problematic areas in 22 electoral wards in the Vale of Glamorgan
- effect at least a 10% reduction in youth crime/youth related incidents in areas covered by the project
- alleviate the fear of antisocial behaviour and reduce risk taking on the streets by providing co-ordinating professional interventions.

The funding was for three years and would create one full time and five part time posts

- F/t Project Co-ordinator
- P/t Team Leader
- P/t 4 Detached Youth Workers
- the posts will be based within the Youth Service and managed by the Youth Development Officer for Barry at Area 41
- the project will allow the Council to target, engage and support the young people on the streets and at risk as identified in recent research projects e.g. Rural Vale Survey, Romilly Park and Buttrills surveys
- the project would provide evidence of need which would support further applications for financial support, which would form the basis of an exit strategy for the project.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the receipt of the Big Lottery Grant for "The Pulse Project" be approved.

(2) T H A T the Director of Learning and Development submit a progress report on "The Pulse Project" in September 2007.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the youth service to commence the recruitment and selection process to make an effective start to the project.

(2) To review progress and ensure that an appropriate exit strategy is in place on cessation of the project.

C2613 SICKNESS ABSENCE SUMMARY - WHOLE YEAR AND QUARTERLY ABSENCE APRIL 2005 - MARCH 2006 (DLD) (SCRUTINY - CORPORATE RESOURCES) -

Cabinet were presented with information for April 2005 to March 2006 year in the context of sickness trends since April 2002.

Within the Corporate Plan and the Human Resources Strategy, the aim was for the Council to review and implement new systems to improve sickness management and achieve a reduction in levels of sickness absence. A key target in the new plan was to achieve 10 days per employee per annum by 2007.

The whole authority figure for April 2005 to March 2006 based on provided data was:

Average Lost Days/Shifts per FTE	13.21
Sick Rate, FTE	5.76%
Total Lost Days/Shifts	48537.03

This represented an improvement on last year's figure of 14.67 lost days per FTE.

The Cabinet had previously endorsed an extension of the reporting tables in the new format and Cabinet were requested to note information contained in the Appendices to the report.

In accordance with Minute C1894, Chief Officers set their sickness targets for 2005/2006. These are shown below compared with the actual figures achieved in 2005/06 and 2004/05 as follows:

	<u>Actual Average Days Lost Per FTE 2004/5</u>	<u>Average FTE 2005/6</u>	<u>2005/6 Target Days/FTE</u>	<u>Actual Average Days Lost Per FTE 2005/6</u>
Chief Executive	4.55	26.16	7	4.38
Finance, ICT & Property	11.22	183.72	9	7.57
Legal & Regulatory	17.06	108.66	12.5	10.61
Schools	11.15	1564.91	9	10.99
Education (Civic)	6.95	89.21	7	10.41
Community Education	13.43	60.00	10	10.67
Libraries	8.75	47.51	8	13.05
Human Resources & Equalities	10.39	43.93	8	8.95
Housing	13.81	84.99	11	13.25
Community Services	19.67	525.98	17	18.60
Catering	8.70	127.50	9	18.91

Visible Services	23.12	277.99	15	18.58
Building – Cleaners	25.49	105.80	15	16.19
Building Services	19.39	141.00	12	18.48
Leisure Centres	13.37	88.26	13	15.56
Support Services/ Planning and Transportation /Economic Development/ Leisure Other	15.39	143.32	12	12.33
Chief Officers		54.95	7	2.78
WHOLE COUNCIL	14.67	3673.810	11.3	13.21

Long term absence still remained as the greater proportion of the total viz:

	<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>
Quarter 1	44%	56%
Quarter 2	34%	66%
Quarter 3	41%	59%
Quarter 4	45%	55%
2005/2006	41%	59%
2004/2005	43%	57%
2003/2004	45%	55%

Although the 2005/2006 outcome against the set target was disappointing, there were significant encouraging signs within the detailed figures as follows:

- the 11.3 target for 2005/06 was set based on the 2004/05 actual figures. Three departments achieved their 2005/06 targets.
- Only four out of 16 departments exceeded their 2004/05 figures
- 12 departments improved on their 2004/05 actual lost days, lowering or significantly lowering the lost days compared with 2004/05
- Visible Services had significantly lowered the number of lost days from 23.12 to 18.58
- Building cleaners had lowered the number of lost days by the most, dropping from 25.49 days to 16.19 days per employee
- Despite the fact that there was a greater number of FTE employees this year, the number of lost days had decreased, contrary to the previous trend.

An unusual feature for 2005/06 was within Catering where the number of lost days had increased from 8.70 to 18.58 per FTE. It had been found however, that the reason for this was that the department had an unusually high number of staff members on long term sick in 2005/06, which dramatically increased the actual number of lost days. These members of staff had now left the authority and it was hoped, therefore, that this figure would be reduced in the current and future years.

Generally, this supported the contention that sickness absence was being better managed and controlled throughout the authority and the aim was to achieve better figures again next year.

Several changes and improvements had been made to the management of sickness over the past year or so, which had had an impact on the decreasing levels. These included:

- better data collection
- new extended reporting format
- more Cabinet information, graphs, trends etc.
- Management of Attendance meetings implemented
- engagement of the Occupational Health Nurse
- access to three doctors instead of one
- more appointments with doctors with more rapid turnaround
- greater emphasis on schools absences, with Governors and Heads being trained
- new policy implemented on Management of Attendance
- new training for Chief Officers and Senior Managers
- Influenza inoculations
- funding available for specific medical procedures via the Shaw Trust (e.g. physiotherapy)
- follow up reports on actions arising from the Management of Attendance meetings after one month
- stronger focus on attendance as a management issue.

In accordance with Minute C1894, Directors had set their targets for 2006/2007 as follows:

	<u>Target Days Per FTE 2006/7</u>
Chief Executive	7
Finance, ICT & Property	8.5
Legal & Regulatory	11
Schools	9
Education (Civic)	8
Community Education	9
Libraries	9
Human Resources & Equalities	8
Housing	11
Community Services	17
Catering	9
Visible Services	15
Building – Cleaners	14
Building Services	15
Leisure Centres	13
Support Services/ Planning and Transportation /Economic Development/ Leisure Other	11
Chief Officers	6

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the statistical information contained with the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Directorates' sickness targets for 2006/07 be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the relevant Directors for the following service areas bring a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet outlining reasons for the increase in the average days lost per FTE between 2004/05 and 2005/06:

- Education (Civic)
- Libraries
- Catering
- Leisure Centres.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To bring matters to Members' attention in line with Corporate Aims.
- (2) To reduce levels of sickness absence.
- (3) To receive explanations for increases in sickness absence.

C2614 REGULATORY SERVICES - PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANT 2006-2007 (DLRS) (SCRUTINY - CORPORATE RESOURCES) -

Cabinet received a report which set out the new scheme of fees and charges in respect of industrial processes regulated by the Council for the financial year 2006/07. All charges would come into effect from 1st April, 2006.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the schedule of fees and charges in respect of industrial processes as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

To ensure fees and charges are increased in line with statutory requirements.

C2615 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 2006 TO 31ST JULY, 2006 (CMT) (SCRUTINY - ALL) -

Cabinet were advised of the progress on the 2006/07 Capital Programme for the period 1st April, 2006 to 31st July, 2006 and where necessary considered requests to change the programme.

It was requested that Cabinet approve the following amendments to the Capital Programme:

Director of Learning and Development -

Early Years Rhoose Primary - works to the nursery building were started in 2005/06. To minimise disruption it had been decided to upgrade the heating to a gas powered system now rather than at a later date. The cost of this and the completion of outstanding works totalled £51,000. There was currently a budget of £5,000 in this year's Capital Programme and it was therefore requested that the budget be increased by £46,000 and the increased cost be funded from the Schools Investment Strategy Fund.

Director of Community Services -

Major Repairs Allowance - in 2006/07, the Welsh Assembly Government approved a Major Repairs Allowance of £2,700,000. The Major Repairs Allowance is used to fund capital expenditure in the Housing Revenue Account and it was proposed that the following schemes funded from the Major Repairs Allowance and that the capital programme be increased accordingly:

Proposed Scheme	2006/07	2007/08
	£000	£000
Window Replacement	400	800
Electrical Testing, Smoke Alarm Testing/Replacement and Rewiring in Council Dwellings	70	100
Rewire Communal Areas	80	0
Central Heating System Renewals	300	500
MRS Funding to be allocated in the Capital Programme	850	1400

Approval was also required for schemes to be undertaken in 2007/08, to allow flexibility across years when procuring works and thereby achieving economies of scale. The allocation in 2007/08 will require approval by the Council.

Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration -

Alley Gates - a £46,000 European Regional Development Fund grant had recently been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office to undertake a further phase of the Alley Gates project. The capital element of this grant is £43,000 and match funding would be made available from the Highways Operational Budget (£13,000) and from Building Safer Communities grant funding (£30,000). It was therefore requested that the capital programme be increased by £86,000.

Cogan Hall Farm Landscaping - monies had been received under a Section 106 Agreement for landscaping works at the Cogan Hall Farm development. £115,000 was available for the works, which are currently awaiting planning consent. Subject to obtaining approval, works were expected to commence in November 2006, with completion in March 2007. It was therefore proposed that the 2006/07 capital programme be increased by £112,000 with £3,000 being included in 2007/08 to cover the payment of retention.

Section 106 Morrisons Thompson Street Footbridge/Trail - part of this budget had been allocated for the implementation of the Barry Visitor Interpretation Trail. The trail was a pedestrian trail with a series of interpretation boards located around Barry and a pocket sized leaflet. A grant of £11,000 had been received from the Wales Tourist Board for this project. It was requested that the capital programme be increased accordingly.

It was anticipated that the following schemes will not be completed on target and a revised budget profile would be reported to Cabinet shortly.

Director of Learning and Development -

Rhose Primary Additional Accommodation - this scheme would include the construction of a new four classroom block to replace the existing demountable accommodation which was in poor condition. Due to the constraints of the site, there were many difficult planning issues. It was hoped that these planning issues would be resolved and it was intended to submit a full planning application within the next month. It was anticipated that subject to planning approval being obtained, work could start on site in early 2007.

Director of Community Services -

Refurbishment of Barry Hostel - this allocation was for the conversion of Barry Hostel into office accommodation for social services staff. The best use of accommodating staff was currently being assessed and a steering group had been set up to finalise the requirements. It was likely that only design work would be undertaken this financial year.

Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration -

Penarth Headland Link - a report on the various options for this scheme was presented to Cabinet on 19th July, 2006. The budget would be altered, following a decision by Council.

Refurbishment of Bridges - this budget had been allocated for work on Cowbridge viaduct. As had been reported previously, Capita Symonds, consultants appointed to the scheme, had undertaken a Principal Inspection of the structure. They would advise on any further testing and draw up a programme of refurbishment/strengthening works. The detail of these works and the proposed programme would be reported to Cabinet in due course. It was anticipated that contracts would be let in early 2007 and the main works would commence in the next financial year.

Waste Resource Park Phase 1 - as had been reported previously, prior to the submission of the planning application for this scheme, there were several environmental surveys that needed to be undertaken. However, access could not be gained to the site before September 2006 due to the existence of nesting birds. The results of the survey e.g. testing for contaminated land, would inform the designed decision. It was envisaged that planning consent would not be granted until December and design would commence thereafter.

S106 Morrisons Thompson Street Footbridge/Trail - as a result of the planning consent from the Morrisons Store on the Waterfront development, there was funding available through a Section 106 Agreement for schemes and works required to strengthen/enhance linkages between the Waterfront and the existing retail area within Barry Town Centre, High Street and Broad Street. The extent of the work had to be agreed with Associated British Ports and completed within an agreed timescale. One of the agreed schemes was the construction of a strategic pedestrian link bridge connecting Thompson Street to the Holton Reach site on the Waterfront. As reported previously, Associated British Ports had indicated that they would prefer to see the new surgery scheme, planned for the Waterfront, being progressed on-site first, with the bridge scheme to follow. This would result in a delayed start to the scheme. The current deadline for spending the S106 monies was November 2006, however, ABP had agreed to extend this date to November 2007. A revised timetable was currently being produced.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the following changes to the Capital Programme be approved and that the changes to the 2007/08 Capital Programme be referred to Council:

- Early Years Rhoose Primary - increase the 2006/07 budget from £5,000 to £51,000. Funding will be made available from the School Investment Strategy Fund.

- Major Repairs Allowance - increase the 2006/07 budget from £754,000 to £1,604,000 and include a budget in the 2007/08 programme of £1,400,000, both budgets funded from the Major Repairs Allowance
- Alley Gates - include in the 2006/07 capital programme a budget of £86,000 funded £43,000 from a ERDF grant, £30,000 from the Building Safer Communities grant and £13,000 from revenue contributions from Highways
- Cogan Hall Farm Landscaping - increase the 2006/07 capital budget by £112,000 and the 2007/08 budget by £3,000 to be funded from a S106 Agreement
- S106 Morrisons Thompson Street Footbridge/Trail - increase the 2006/07 capital budget from £567,000 to £578,000 funding to be provided by the Welsh Tourist Board.

Reasons for decisions

To allow schemes to be undertaken in this financial year.

C2616 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 2006 TO 31ST JULY, 2006 (CMT) (SCRUTINY - ALL) -

Cabinet were advised of the progress of revenue expenditure for the period 1st April, 2006 to 31st July, 2006.

The projected outturn for the 2006/07 Revenue Budget was for a deficit of £5,355,000 on the General Fund and a balanced budget on the Housing Revenue Account.

Director of Community Services - the current forecast for this Directorate was for a balanced budget on the Housing Revenue Account and a deficit of £5,505,000 on General Fund services. The Director of Community Services was preparing an action plan detailing the actions to be taken to off-set the potential deficit, and this would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Children's Services - this service was currently showing a projected deficit of £2,287,000, an increase of £287,000 on the previously reported figure. This increase was mainly due to the signing of the agreement for the new children's residential unit, the placement of children in the unit without a corresponding reduction in other commitments. The situation would be closely monitored and reflected in future reports.

Community Care and Health - as had been reported previously, the probable outturn was showing a deficit of £3,068,000 which reflected the level of commitments on residential placements, nursing home placements and domiciliary care package and social worker costs. The actions currently being taken to curtail the overspend were not yet reflected in current expenditure levels. As the savings became apparent it would be reflected in future monitoring reports.

Catering - currently the service was showing a projected deficit of £150,000 due to losses incurred by the Trading Account. This deficit was due to a fall in the number of meals being supplied and may increase to £175,000 if from September, meal numbers continue to decline. Changes to address these issues will start to be introduced in September and longer term plans drawn up to rectify the situation. The deficit could be covered from savings identified in Policy Committee.

Visible Services - the probable outturn was showing a deficit of £170,000, although every effort was being made to reduce this. It was due to the increase in prices charged by external contractors for grass cutting and verge maintenance (£120,000) and additional costs of grounds staff re the Centenary celebrations at Dyffryn Gardens (£50,000). The cost effectiveness of using external contractors was currently being reviewed.

Trading Accounts (other than catering) -

- the probable outturn on trading units was showing a net deficit of £280,000 and every effort was being made by the Directorate to minimise this figure
- the leisure deficit was substantially due to increased utility costs
- the deficit on building maintenance and building cleaning/security services was being reviewed as a matter of urgency
- work had also commenced on “DSO” study which would identify options for the future of the services.

Policy - it was intended that savings on policy including additional interest received and lower debt charges than estimated should cover the overspends on Catering, Visible Services and Trading Units. If these did not arise the additional £600,000 would need to be met from the General Fund balance.

Cabinet were strongly advised of the importance of bringing the projected deficits under control during the current year. Members were informed that the net overspend of £5.355 million on Community Services would have to be met from the General Fund balance. Members were also informed that, as at 31st March, 2007, this balance was predicted to stand at about £4 million after the use of £2.250 million approved by the Council to balance the 2006/07 budget. A substantial amount of the overspend would therefore have to be found by un-earmarking specific reserves. Cabinet were unanimous in their view that overspending on this scale could not continue and instructed the Director of Community Services to submit an Action Plan to the next meeting of Cabinet.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Chief Officer of the overspending Directorates bring a report to Cabinet on 4th October, 2006 providing more detail on the anticipated overspends and identifying the actions taken and to be taken to minimise/reverse the predicted overspend.

(2) T H A T the Director of Community Services submit his Action Plan to address overspending to the next meeting of Cabinet.

Reason for decision

(1) That the Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2006/07.

(2) That the proposals to address the overspend in Community Services be considered as a matter of urgency.

C2617 COMPLAINTS OF MALADMINISTRATION AGAINST THE COUNCIL (MO) (SCRUTINY - AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT) -

The report outlined recent complaints of maladministration against the Council.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED - T H A T the report be noted.

C2618 ITEM WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT -

RESOLVED - T H A T the following item which the Chairman had decided was urgent, be considered.

C2619 TRADE FESTIVAL -

Councillor A.J. Williams referred to the recent trade promotion held in Rheinfelden, and it was

RESOLVED - T H A T the excellent work of the Cabinet Office and staff of the Vale Catering Service at the cultural festival in Rheinfelden, Germany be recognised and that a report be submitted to Cabinet on the event.

C2620 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

**C2621 FORMER BUS DEPOT, BROAD STREET, BARRY (DEER)
(EXEMPT INFORMATION - PARAGRAPH 21) (SCRUTINY - ECONOMY
AND ENVIRONMENT) -**

Authority was sought from the Cabinet to sub-let the former bus depot to the Bus Preservation Groups subject to the agreements of Heads of Terms.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the Directors of Environmental and Economic Regeneration and Finance, ICT and Property together with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure be authorised to discuss with the Bus Preservation Groups, Heads of Terms for the sub-letting of the former bus depot.
- (2) T H A T subject to the contracting bus preservation group achieving charitable status and agreement of the Heads of Terms being reached, the Director of Legal and Regulatory Services be authorised to prepare and execute all relevant documents involved in any leasing and legal agreement arrangements following from (1) above.
- (3) T H A T a potential phased Development Programme for the Welsh Transport Heritage Centre in Barry be investigated by the Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration.
- (4) T H A T the Director of Finance, ICT and Property be authorised to bid for the freehold interest of the former bus depot and adjacent office building should it be sold on the open market subject to funding being identified either in the Capital Programme or from an alternative source.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable a defined user of the building to be found:
 - to bring the building back into beneficial use
 - to provide a valuable tourism service
 - to provide wider options for the regeneration of the site.
- (2) To enable the necessary legal documentation to be executed.
- (3) To enable a phased development to take place.
- (4) To secure the future use of the site.