

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 7 March, 2016.

Present: Councillor N. Moore (Chairman), Councillor S.C. Egan (Vice – Chairman);
Councillors: B.E. Brooks, L. Burnett, C.P.J. Elmore and G. John.

Apologies for Absence:

At the start of the meeting the Leader confirmed that he was expecting Cllr C.P.J. Elmore to attend, but confirmed he would be late as the Cabinet Member was welcoming the Welsh Government Minister for Education at a visit to Barry Comprehensive School. Cllr C.P.J. Elmore arrived at the start of Agenda Item 4.

Also Present: Councillor N. Hodges.

C3093 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February, 2016 be approved as a correct record.

C3094 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declaration of interest was received:

Councillor S. Egan	<p>Agenda Item 6 - National Categorisation - Outcomes for Vale Schools - Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) - 8 February, 2016</p> <p>Reason for Declaration – A Local Education Authority (LEA) appointed Governor at High Street Primary School and also appointed as the Chair of Governors at the school. As an LEA Governor, his personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest and therefore he was able to speak and vote on the matter.</p>
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C3095 DRAFT PROTOCOL RE SCRUTINY AND CABINET ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (REF) -

The Democratic Services Committee on 10 February, 2016 considered the above report of the Head of Democratic Services.

Members had been made aware from previous reports, of the all-Wales Scrutiny Improvement Study undertaken by the Wales Audit Office. As far as this Council was concerned, in response to the nine specific recommendations emerging from the Study, an Action Plan was prepared. That Action Plan had been the subject of update reports to both the Democratic Services Committee and the Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group. That would continue to be the case.

The nine specific recommendations of the Auditor General had been reported previously and were covered in the Action Plan (which, in itself, was included as a separate agenda item).

The Action Plan included the drawing up of a Protocol designed to encompass a number of elements of the Wales Audit Office recommendations, including:

- the overall roles / responsibilities of Scrutiny and Cabinet Members (and, indeed, officers),
- the general arrangements in place governing the Scrutiny process,
- the need for correlation of internal (i.e. Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny) Work Programmes and correlation between those and external regulators' Work Programmes.

The draft Protocol was attached as Appendix A to the report. The draft was also being submitted to the Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group.

The draft Protocol sought to set out parameters governing the following specific areas:

- Principles of Effective Scrutiny
- Role of the Scrutiny Committees
- Holding the Cabinet to Account
- Relationship Between Cabinet and Scrutiny
- Work Programmes and Agendas
- Ethos of a Scrutiny Committee Meeting
- Attendance by Cabinet Members at Scrutiny Committee Meetings
- Attendance by Officers at Scrutiny Committee Meetings
- Responses of Cabinet Members to Questions from Scrutiny Committees
- "Call-In" of a Cabinet Decision
- Recommendations made by Scrutiny Committees
- Meetings Between Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Cabinet Members
- Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committee Meetings.

Within the Draft Protocol, the Head of Democratic Services specifically referred Members' attention to Section 7, and, in particular, paragraphs which related to forward work programmes and to pre-Cabinet scrutiny. He advised that the protocol outlined the need for close correlation between the work programmes of not only Cabinet and Scrutiny, but also external regulators. He also informed Members that the recently updated Council Constitution reflected the fact that indicative Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Annual Work Programmes would be published at the beginning

of each Municipal Year and, thereafter, updated on a quarterly basis. In terms of pre-Cabinet scrutiny, he advised the Committee that the protocol recognised and reflected the need for a consistent and clear approach regarding what items were subject to pre-Cabinet scrutiny.

In referring to the Cabinet forward work programme, a Committee Member commented that Scrutiny needed more than 4 months' notice as this was not long enough to inform the Scrutiny work programme. In reply the Head of Democratic Services stated that new procedures around the forward work programme would commence in May and this would improve the synergy between Cabinet and Scrutiny.

The Chairman then alluded to the "blurring" which could occur between pre-Cabinet scrutiny and consultation and he alluded to the benefits of pre-Cabinet scrutiny and, as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning), he stated that the Scrutiny Committee had been part of a number of consultation exercises. He then commented on observations that he made around the collective responsibility of Cabinet, on occasions, not being quite as clear as he would expect.

With regard to pre-Cabinet scrutiny, a Member stated that this needed to be very carefully planned and he alluded to his previous point that Cabinet needed to provide Scrutiny with more notice of items on its work programme. Another Member commented that he was in favour of pre-Cabinet scrutiny and he would like more Scrutiny involvement in policy formulation. He then queried whether there was a contradiction around this, in which Scrutiny would be asked to scrutinise decisions that it had already been involved in and he stated that the idea was for Cabinet to make decisions and then for Scrutiny to question these. In reply to these points, the Head of Democratic Services stated there needed to be a balance between those items that were considered pre-Cabinet scrutiny and those which were not and he advised that legislation did stipulate that one of the roles of Scrutiny was to assist Cabinet with policy development. The Chairman also added that he did not have an issue with Scrutiny involvement in policy formulation and he commented that any recommendations made by Scrutiny would be a matter for Cabinet to determine. He also stated that if there was an alternative view held by Cabinet then Scrutiny would be able to discuss these, as the role of Scrutiny was to review decisions made. The Head of Democratic Services advised, that the new protocol stated that in instances where Cabinet had not accepted the views of Scrutiny, Cabinet would have to record reasons for this in their minutes and this would be recorded in the Scrutiny Committee decision- tracking.

Following this, a Member queried whether the production of this protocol was somewhat premature, given the changes to the Scrutiny arrangements that would come into effect from May. In reply to this, the Head of Democratic Services stated that as the protocol covered mainly generic points, the protocol was fairly "future proof" and would also cover the new working arrangements.

A Member, in referring to Paragraph 7.1 of the protocol, which related to Scrutiny being focussed on a limited number of in depth topics, stated that he felt this was key and that the Scrutiny Committees usually had too many agenda items. To this, the Chairman stated that in Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) meetings a lot of

“information only” reports were received. The Head of Democratic Services added that the protocol provided for “information only” reports to be discontinued (albeit they could still be issued to Members outside the formal committee process). He also commented that the work programme of each of the new Scrutiny Committees would need to be closely aligned to specific outcomes (linked to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act), so reports needed to indicate how they contributed to the relevant Council objective(s). He further advised that other performance data would still be collected for Management Information purposes; the aim being to streamline this process to which, the format of new scorecards were currently being looked into by officers and, in due course, would be considered by Members.

With reference to Section 12 of the protocol, which related to a ‘Call-In’ of a Cabinet decision, the Committee felt that Cabinet Members should be in attendance when any decisions that came under their portfolio had been ‘called-in’ and similarly for the Member, who had “called-in” a decision, should also be in attendance to present their ‘Call-In’. Finally, the Committee noted that the protocol would be reviewed again in 12 months’ time which would allow for the new Scrutiny arrangements to “bed in”.

RESOLVED

- (1) T H A T the draft Protocol be endorsed and submitted to Cabinet and Council for consideration.
- (2) T H A T the Protocol, if endorsed by Cabinet and Council, be reviewed 12 months following implementation.

Reason for decision

- (1) To further apprise Members of actions being taken in respect of the specific recommendations and various other elements contained in the Wales Audit Office Scrutiny Improvement Study.
- (2) To consider any parts of the protocol that may need to be revised.

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 Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Democratic Services Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the draft protocol re Scrutiny and Cabinet Roles and Responsibilities attached as an appendix to the report be endorsed and forwarded to Council for approval.

- (2) T H A T Cabinet receive a further update report in twelve month's time

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To endorse the draft protocol re Scrutiny and Cabinet Roles and Responsibilities attached as an appendix to the report.
- (2) To consider any parts of the protocol that may need to be revised.

C3096 DRAFT UPDATED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (REF) -

The Democratic Services Committee on 10 February, 2016 considered the above report of the Head of Democratic Services.

The Government's ongoing Modernising Local Government agenda meant that Members had had to embrace, and adapt to, many different roles and responsibilities. The Leader and Cabinet model of governance, introduced in May 2002, had a major impact on Members' roles. Executive Members played a key role in policy and decision-making, with the non-Executive Members on the Council's five Scrutiny Committees providing a valuable means of challenge ("critical friend") and assisting the Executive in areas such as policy development.

The Wales Programme for Improvement placed a responsibility on the Council to maintain continuous improvement in service delivery, emphasising the need to develop new and innovative ways of working to improve service outcomes. All Members would have a key role in the process of challenging established patterns of service delivery.

Various statutory responsibilities were placed on the Council to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the community and to lead and co-ordinate the preparation of the Community Strategy in partnership with the Council's public, private, voluntary and community sector partners. Within this area, all Members had a key role in providing leadership and front-line representation to the local community.

The Strategy had been developed in the context of ongoing changes in Local Government and with a view to enabling Members to meet the challenges and opportunities presented to them, both through legislative changes and drivers in the County Council's organisation, the way it delivered services and the way it worked with its communities. It did not set out to specify in detail the training that would be undertaken, when it would happen and who would facilitate it. Rather, it sought to reaffirm the principles that would govern the Council's approach to Member Development and to set out in broad terms how the aims and objectives of Member Development would be met.

To provide the context in which the Strategy sat, the document began by setting out the Council's Vision and Values. It then explained the overall objectives of Member

Development within that context, before setting out the role of the Democratic Services Committee and supporting officers. Finally, the Strategy outlined the structure for Member Development.

RESOLVED - T H A T the updated Member Development Strategy be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Reason for decision

To provide for Members an updated Member Development Strategy which, in turn, will inform the Council's ongoing Member Development Programme.



At the meeting the Leader made reference to paragraphs 28 and 29 of the appendix attached to the reference, and he confirmed that links to the website would be added to the document in the section: "details to be inserted" once the relevant web pages had been updated.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee

RESOLVED – T H A T the Draft Updated Member Development Strategy attached as the Appendix to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

To approve the Draft Updated Member Development Strategy attached as the Appendix to the report.

C3097 NATIONAL CATEGORISATION – OUTCOMES FOR VALE SCHOOLS (REF) -

The Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) on 8 February, 2016 considered the above report.

The report provided Members with details of the categorisation of Vale schools following the National Categorisation process and also highlighted primary schools that may benefit from a School Progress Panel meeting and schools with excellence to share.

National Categorisation was a three step process that resulted in each school being assigned to a category. The category indicates where the school was on its improvement journey, the level of challenge / support required to ensure further improvement. National Categorisation was in its second year and replaced the

former banding of secondary schools and the regional arrangements for categorising schools as A, B, C or D. The categorisation for each of the schools within the Vale of Glamorgan was provided at Appendix 4 to the report.

The position of Vale schools on the grid used within the National Categorisation process was provided within Appendix 5 to the report. The standards group and capacity to improve were plotted along the y and x axes respectively to determine the level of schools' category.

New schools, pupil referral units and nursery schools did not have a standards group as the data needed to determine the group was not available. Their capacity to improve and category was determined by the Challenge Advisor. Of the 51 Vale schools assigned to a standards group, 43.1% were in group 1, 33.3% in group 2, 21.6% in group 3 and 1.96% in group 4. (Where one school represented 1.96%.)

With regards to the schools' capacity to improve, of the 58 schools (each school represented 1.72%) 36.2% were judged to be A, 56.9% B, 6.9% C and no schools judged as D. Within the Vale of Glamorgan 34.5% of 58 schools were Category Green, 55.2% Yellow, 8.6% Amber and 1.7% Red. (Where each school represented 1.72%.)

Appendix 6 to the report illustrated the difference in categorisation of Vale schools when comparing the categorisation in January 2015 and January 2016.

The percentage of schools in standards group 1 had increased to 43.1% from 20.35%, with a decreased percentage of schools in the remaining standards group. With regard to the capacity to improve, a similar number of schools were judged to be A, an increase in the percentage of schools judged to be B, with a resulting drop in the percentage of schools with a capacity to improve of C.

The report also outlined those primary schools which potentially could benefit from a visit by the Vales School Progress Panel, it being noted that High Street School remained in Amber support category with the capacity to improve changed from a B to a C and that Fairfield Primary School had been identified by Estyn as a primary school in which the Local Authority should have taken a more direct approach in challenging performance.

In referring to excellence in Vale schools, the report also considered that Members may wish to ask some of the schools in which Estyn had identified excellence to present their work at a Scrutiny meeting. Excellence had been recognised in a number of schools in the year 2014/15 as outlined below:

School	Case Study
Evenlode Primary	Partnership working - writing projects involving Stanwell and local business.
Romilly Primary	Embedding Pupil Voice - Child friendly school improvement plan.
	Cross School Working - Peer

	observation and learning triads. Nurture provision linked to family learning.
St. Joseph's Primary	The Learning Environment.
Victoria Primary	Nurture provision for children with additional learning needs.
Stanwell Comprehensive	How the development of teaching in the school has led to excellent teaching and outcomes.
Albert Primary	Pupils Shape Their Curriculum.

Committee was reminded that the primary purpose of the National School Categorisation System was to identify schools that were most in need of support, to ensure that, in partnership with the Local Authority and Consortia support, resources were effectively directed to secure improvements necessary in the school system.

A Member raised the issue of how much discretion was used in relation to the determination of schools in the relevant categories. The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion responded by advising that although the information was used by different people for different purposes, it was a school allocation tool that was used in order to ensure support was provided where necessary. The importance the Head of Service stated was the standards that were to be achieved and the capacity to improve.

A Member was concerned at the fact that Barry Comprehensive remained in the Red category and whether there was the confidence in the school improving. The Head of Service in response advised that in the Red category the school would receive the greatest amount of support plus being a Challenge Cymru School and with the use of the Director's intervention powers, including the school working as a Pathfinder School, the support that it was receiving would help it to develop its progress. The school was also currently showing progress and reports were being made to the Accelerated Improvement Board (AIB) on a monthly basis and closely monitored by the Head of Service who also visited the school regularly. With regard to confidence in the school improving, the Head of Service could advise that the school had received its best results ever in 2015 and there were signs of improvement again. Recognising that it was however, a challenge and the school was in a challenging environment with some challenging learners, he reassured Members of the improvements that were being made and the significant support being provided.

To this a Member queried the detail of the actual problems at the school, with the Head of Service stating that the issues were in the first instance that the school was starting from such a low base and Estyn had judged the school to be in significant improvement. There had been a number of previous issues including staffing concerns, cultural issues etc. but that to date much progress had been made. The school was also looking at the quality of teaching and learning and there was evidence of a change in culture all against a backdrop of dealing with some challenging learners.

The Post Inspection Action Plan was developed and the Council and the Consortium were supporting the school through this Action Plan.

Following a query in relation to where schools were identified, for example as 3B and Amber and others 3B and defined as Yellow, the Head of Service informed Committee that a number of issues were taken into account when considering the category e.g. the quality of leadership as evidenced in self-evaluation and school improvement processes. Aware that the majority of people would not know how these aspects were attributed, he confirmed that in his role as Head of Service, the standards group and the capacity to improve were most relevant.

In referring again to Barry Comprehensive in the Red category, Committee was advised that a Progress Panel meeting was to be scheduled to take place before April and details of that Panel meeting would be reported to the Scrutiny Committee in due course.

The Chairman also concurred with the suggestion that Progress Panel meetings should be established for the primary schools identified in the report and that presentations of the work of schools identified by Estyn with excellent aspects should be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in due course.

The Chairman also referred to a recent meeting he had attended with Scrutiny Chairs within the Consortium, advising stating that the Vale was doing well and although it was improving, there was also room for further improvement. It was also important that the Council and the Committee looked beyond Wales and England when benchmarking and in particular bench marking with Scotland should be considered.

Following the discussion it was it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the categorisation of Vale schools be noted.
- (2) T H A T Progress Panel meetings at the identified primary schools be conducted.
- (3) T H A T the excellence identified in Vale schools be presented to future Scrutiny Committee meetings.
- (4) T H A T a programme of work in respect of recommendations 2 and 3 above be presented for consideration by the Committee.
- (5) T H A T a copy of the report and the Committee's recommendations be referred to Cabinet advising of the Committee's intentions to continue to monitor Barry Comprehensive School, (recognising that the position at Barry Comprehensive is starting to improve but that further monitoring will be undertaken) and the programme of work to be prepared as outlined in 2 and 3 above.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) In recognition of the content contained therein.
- (2&3) To facilitate Members' role in promoting accelerated progress in identified schools and in recognising excellence in Vale schools.
- (4) For Committee consideration.
- (5) To apprise Cabinet.

At the meeting the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools commented that the Council had received positive school categorisations and more Vale of Glamorgan schools progressed to green and yellow categorisation with less amber. The Cabinet Member drew attention to Paragraph 17 of the report that went to the Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) which stated that:

"In considering which primary schools would potentially benefit from a visit by the school progress panel, the Scrutiny Committee may wish to note High Street primary school remains in Amber support category and the capacity to improve has changed from B to C. In addition Fairfield Primary school has been identified by Estyn as a primary school in which the local authority should have taken a more direct approach in challenging performance."

The Cabinet Member noted that one of these schools contained a Behavioral Resource Base, which might affect results. He continued by commenting that he brought a report to Cabinet in 2013 entitled Pupil Attainment and School Improvement: Summary and Further Proposals (minute number C1985 refers) that highlighted the intervention strategies the Council had adopted. This included Scrutiny Committee Review and Challenge Panels. He quoted the following two resolutions from that report:

"(2) T H A T the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee invite to its meeting, the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher of individual Schools, including Schools subject to Estyn follow-up, where performance issues had been identified. The arrangements for the format of these meetings and a detailed work programme identifying the dates for individual schools to attend meetings be arranged by the Committee.

(3) T H A T the use of intervention powers by the Chief Learning and Skills Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and the

Leader if it became appropriate to do so, be endorsed, and that any use of these powers be reported to Cabinet and the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.”

In this case, however, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Schools and the Leader felt that this process had not been followed, as Cabinet had not received a report or formal request to send a panel to High Street or Fairfield Primary Schools. As such, the Cabinet Member called for a report to be brought to Cabinet that specifically considered the schools mentioned, and the report would also include a protocol for future Scrutiny Committee Review and Challenge Panels to formally visit schools to be agreed by Cabinet.

In agreement with his colleague, the Leader noted that the report did not specifically mention Review and Challenge Panels, and that Cabinet had to be formally notified of any specific issues that affected schools and its approval sought before action could be formally taken by the Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning)

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted and thanks be given to schools for the hard work of pupils in achieving the good categorisation results.
- (2) T H A T a further report be brought back to Cabinet that provides a review of the High Street and Fairfield Primary Schools, detailing the current issues and the involvement of the Scrutiny Working Panels, and establishes a protocol for future visits to schools, to thereafter be referred to Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong learning) if necessary.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To recognise the good results of schools.
- (2) To review High Street and Fairfield Primary Schools and formalise the protocol for Review and Challenge group visits.

C3098 UPDATE REPORT ON BARRY ELIM CHURCH ‘CAN DO’ PROJECT (REF) -

The Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) on 8 February, 2016 considered the above report of the Managing Director.

The Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee on 14th October, 2015 had referred the report to the Committee for its information. The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee advised that in order to manage the items on previous agendas, he had deferred consideration of the reference to this evenings meeting as a result.

The Children and Young People’s Partnership Manager, in presenting the reference and the report, provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the “Can Do” project. This had been a three year pilot project working with pupils who were at risk of poor attendance and who had a difficult time adjusting at secondary school due to anxiety and confidence issues. It was considered that these young people were in danger of becoming disengaged from education, employment and training in the long term. The desired outcome of the project was to give pupils the tools to improve self-confidence, increase resilience and reduce anxiety related behaviour resulting in overall improvement in school life, happiness and therefore achievement. The project had commenced part way through summer term 2013.

The project worked with two secondary schools, Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren, with all pupils being Year 8 pupils. The Heads of Year had identified pupils to put forward for the project using their respective schools management systems (NBAR / PASS) and using their personal knowledge of the pupils.

The project ran from April to March and during 2014/15 47 pupils were put forward for the Can Do course, with the attendance on the course at 93%. Feedback had been received from 40 pupils, all indicating some or great improvement in their self-esteem. For the coaching and mentoring element of the project, 41 pupils had been put forward with 39 completing the provision and 36 providing feedback. Two pupils did not participate after the first session as they did not believe it was right for them.

Pupils received a minimum of four sessions, initially developing their own goals and agreeing an action plan – pupils set a wide range of goals, 28 pupils put forward for coaching / mentoring self-identified having behaviour and confidence issues in class and feelings of boredom. Some identified family issues as the place where they wanted to bring change. The programme focussed on finding solutions for these. In addition to this all pupils self-assessed their self-image and carried out an additional questionnaire to identify the “coaching gaps” in school performance. It was at the fourth coaching session all parties assessed how to continue or whether to end the relationship based on achievement of goals or needing further support.

Feedback from the pupils found the coaching and mentoring relationship good to excellent (34) and helpful (30). When asked if they would like to be coached or mentored at a later date, 58% responded positively. 26 of those completing wanted a 4-6 months’ review on their progress. The self-image exit assessment suggested the main improvements were in being less cheeky (31), feeling more intelligent (30)

and less moody (29). Between 25-28 individual pupils reported improvements in confidence, kindness, happiness, being less lazy and less bossy.

Feedback from pupils demonstrated positive engagement and benefiting from the provision, this was further supported by teacher comments that identified areas of improvement in pupil confidence and improvements in individual pupil self-esteem.

Funding of £60k had been agreed for the project, which had been split as £20k per annum for the three years commencing 2013/14. Sources of funding were being explored to continue the project from April 2016, including the individual school's "Pupil Deprivation Grant". If however these funding opportunities are unsuccessful, the project would cease.

Members raised concern in relation to the possibility of the project ceasing from April 2016 and an Observer Member advised that the project worker who undertook the project had been a valuable asset to the school and that the school they were at was currently looking at other avenues in order to support the project worker further. The Partnership Manager advised that other funding opportunities had and were being explored, for example Communities First, but as their budgets were tight, it was not considered an option at this stage.

Committee was also of the view that such work played an important part in the prevention agenda and mitigated issues in the longer term and that in their view it was a small amount of money in the initial stages that could save a lot in the future.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Committee's appreciation be extended to all involved in the project in respect of the work undertaken to date.
- (3) T H A T the report, the appendices and the Committee's comments be referred to Cabinet for consideration, to highlight the Committee's concern that such a valuable project could cease as at 1st April, 2016 due to lack of funding with the request that Cabinet consider whether there were further options to sustain the service.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) That the progress made to date on the Barry Elim Church "Can Do" project be noted.
- (2) In order that those involved in delivering the project can be thanked for the work that has already been carried out.
- (3) That the report be referred to Cabinet in view of the Committee's concerns and to ask Cabinet to consider other ways of funding such a successful project.

At the meeting the Leader commented that the report had originally been presented to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee in July 2015, and an update report presented to the same committee in October 2015. At that meeting the report was referred to the Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) for information but it was not considered by the Scrutiny Committee until February 2016. As such, the Leader expressed his disappointment that the report had not been presented to Cabinet at an earlier date, especially since the Budget Setting process had just finished. He further commented that this item could have been considered in line with that process. He highlighted paragraph 19 of the report, which stated that funding of £60,000 had been agreed for the project, split £20,000 per annum for the 3 years commencing 2013/14. He also highlighted paragraph 20, which stated that:

“Sources of funding are being explored from April 2016 through various funding streams, including the individual schools 'Pupil Deprivation Grant'. If these are unsuccessful the project will cease.”

The Leader noted that all organisations that received grant funding should have exit strategies in place to enable projects to move forward beyond the existing funding once it had expired. He was not aware of any formal requests for funding regarding this matter, and following the update report and presentation to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee, there had been no expectation of further funding. As such, he called for an update report to provide clarity on this matter.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning)

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T a further report be brought to Cabinet on this matter to provide further information on this project and consider possible sources of future funding before the end of the financial year.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To note the contents of the report.

(2) To consider future funding for the project.

C3099 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN INTERIM CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – CORPORATE RESOURCES, SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH, LIFELONG LEARNING) -

Approval was sought for the Vale of Glamorgan Interim Corporate Safeguarding Policy to ensure continued improvement in corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults who required specific Council services and to ensure that the arrangements were effective.

In 2011, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) and Estyn published a joint report following their investigation into the way Pembrokeshire County Council was managing allegations of professional abuse and its arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children in education services. Significant concerns were expressed in the report about the quality of corporate working to safeguard and protect children by the local authority. Following that report, a Corporate Safeguarding Working Group was established by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to learn lessons from the Pembrokeshire investigation to ensure that effective arrangements for protecting vulnerable people in the Vale were in place. It was chaired by the Director of Social Services. The group worked to an action plan that addressed findings from experience, inspection and audit.

Welsh Government policy documents such as “Working Together under the Children Act 2004” set out clear expectations of the leadership needed corporately from senior members and officers on safeguarding matters, with collective responsibilities for planning improvements. However, the Wales Audit Office ‘Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils’ (published in July 2015) found that many of the corporate safeguarding responsibilities within local authorities across Wales were underdeveloped and not well understood. The document was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. In order to address this issue, one of the key recommendations from the review was that all councils should have a Corporate Safeguarding Policy in place to guide all departments, staff and elected members in the application of robust safeguarding practices.

The Corporate Safeguarding Working Group had devised an Interim Corporate Safeguarding Policy which brought into one document and codified a range of relevant material produced within the Council at different times and for different purposes. The Policy, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, had been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team.

The statutory framework introduced by the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 would require the Working Group to revise the interim policy as soon as possible after the Act was implemented, in April 2016. However, it was anticipated that new versions of "Working Together" and "In Safe Hands" (updated 2003) (which guided the statutory response to adult abuse and neglect) would not be available for some time. Because times of significant change could generate increased risk to vulnerable people, it was important to have available clear guidance during such periods. The Interim Policy would fulfil this purpose well. In addition, some staff in the Council were obliged to follow the January 2013 version of the 'Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse' (POVA), which would also need updating to ensure compliance with the Act. This document would take precedence over the Interim Corporate Safeguarding Policy for those exercising adult protection functions in the POVA and case management teams within the Social Services Directorate.

Elected Members would be invited to attend a training session in respect of the Interim Corporate Safeguarding Policy in March as part of the training programme for implementing the Social Services and Well-being Act.

After this item was presented, the Director of Social Services confirmed that Members were invited to attend a training session in respect of the Interim Safeguarding Policy that was due to take place in the coming week.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that he was pleased this training session was taking place and looked forward to attending the briefing.

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 Vale of Glamorgan Interim Corporate Safeguarding Policy attached at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

To equip all council departments, staff and elected members with up-to-date guidance about how to apply robust safeguarding practices.

C3100 PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE CADOXTON NURSERY AND CADOXTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF CADOXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11 YEARS FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 (CSS) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – LIFELONG LEARNING) -

Cabinet was advised of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken on proposals to amalgamate Cadoxton Nursery and Cadoxton Primary schools and approval to publish a statutory public notice to this effect was sought.

The Council had a duty to review the number and type of schools in the area and to make the best use of resources to continue raising standards in schools.

Cabinet met on 14 December, 2015 where a report on the proposal to amalgamate the two schools and extend the age range of Cadoxton Primary School to a 3 to 11 years school was presented. Cabinet agreed at that meeting to undertake a consultation on the proposal from 4 January, 2016 for a period of 6 weeks. Appropriate consultation had taken place with prescribed consultees and a range of individuals, the details of which were attached in the Consultation document attached at Appendix A to the report.

Separate consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors of Cadoxton Primary School on 26 January, 2016, and with the staff and governors of Cadoxton Nursery School on 10 February, 2016. Drop in sessions for parents of both schools were held on 4 February and 9 February, 2016. In addition, consultation had also been undertaken with children of the 'Senedd' of Cadoxton Primary School. The outcome of the children's consultation was attached at Appendix C (Annex D) to the report. It was decided not to undertake a consultation exercise with the children of Cadoxton Nursery School as it was felt that at the ages of 3 and 4 the children would not be able to fully understand the process.

The Authority received 158 individual responses by the closing date, all through the medium of English. A petition against the proposal containing 416 signatures was also received. Of the 158 individual responses, 117 consultees either supported or were not in support of the proposal. Of the 117 responses, 27.4% (32) were positive, 72.6% (85) were against. 39 responses did not offer an opinion either way and 2 responses were deemed invalid as 1 required additional information and did not give an opinion and 1 response was deemed void as there was no indication of a response of any kind and solely included the respondent's name and address. The consultation report attached at Appendix C to the report outlined the 156 responses that were deemed valid. The Authority received a response from Estyn and responses from each of the school's governing bodies. There was no response from any of the trade unions consulted as part of the exercise.

A number of key concerns related to the proposal were raised by respondents. These were:

- that the existing community-centred ethos of the nursery would be lost;
- that an amalgamation would be detrimental to the standard of education and learning outcomes of the nursery children;
- the wellbeing of the nursery children would be compromised as a result of having shared leadership and potential changes in staff responsibilities;
- that given the excellent results of the nursery school, how an amalgamation could add value or benefit the children, and;
- concerns over potential staff implications.

For those in favour of the proposal, the key supporting themes identified were:

- facilitating continuity for children, as progress would be monitored from the age of 3 years to 11 years;
- resources could be delegated more efficiently and there would be more opportunity for shared resources;
- it would be easier for parents with consistent uniforms and inset days across all years, and;
- that there would be more opportunity and scope for professional development for staff if they wish.

A summary of the key themes and issues raised by the respondents, including that of the governing bodies and Estyn, as well as the Council's responses were contained within the Consultation report attached at Appendix C to the report. The report considered that the benefits of the proposed amalgamation of Cadoxton Nursery School and Cadoxton Primary School would maintain and sustain the current high standards of both schools, outweighed any disadvantages, and were sufficient to warrant Cabinet's consideration as to whether to publish a statutory public notice to amalgamate.

To progress the proposal a statutory notice had to be published providing 28 days for objections. The notice had to be published on a school day and with 15 school days included within the notice period. It was proposed to issue a statutory notice for the amalgamation to run from 11 April, 2016 to 9 May, 2016 if approval to proceed was granted by Cabinet. Following the publication of a statutory notice and objection period, a further report to Cabinet would be issued on the outcome of the statutory notice period.

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 findings of the consultation exercise and the equality impact assessment of the proposal be noted.
- (2) T H A T the publication of the consultation report on the proposal be approved.
- (3) T H A T the publication of a statutory public notice to amalgamate Cadoxton Nursery and Cadoxton Primary schools be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure the views of prescribed consultees were taken into account in the decision making process, and that the Council complied with its public sector equality duty.
- (2) To ensure the Local Authority met the legal requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2013.
- (3) To progress the proposed amalgamation of Cadoxton Nursery and Cadoxton Primary schools.

C3101 SUPPORTED LOCAL BUS SERVICES (R) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT) -

Cabinet was apprised of proposed alterations to local bus services that would enhance bus service provision for residents in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The existing Contract Agreement with New Adventure Travel Ltd for the local bus service 321 (Llantwit Major - Talbot Green) was due to terminate after service provision on 31 March, 2016. However, the Contract Agreement could be further extended up to a maximum period of 5-years (i.e. until 4 January, 2020 or sooner depending on continued financial resources to support it) in agreement with New Adventure Travel Ltd. There was no alternative public transport service that directly connected the towns of Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Talbot Green on a regular

Monday to Saturday schedule. Any loss of this Service could cause significant transport problems for a number of local residents and users that depended on this service, as they would instead have to rely on private transport (if available), taxis or the Council run Greenlinks Community Transport service (if available to accommodate an individual request). In view of the need for Bus Service 321 the report proposed to extend this Service for a further year to 31 March, 2017 at the same cost (plus any inflationary award due). The operator New Adventure Travel had agreed to this contract extension provided additional promotion of the service was undertaken by the Council to encourage greater use of the Service.

The schedule for bus service 303/304 (Bridgend - Barry - Cardiff) was developed many years ago at a time when there was less traffic on the roads. Minor timetable changes had been applied in an attempt to resolve time keeping problems, but delays continued to be experienced by the Operator and time keeping was getting worse. Without the introduction of additional resources by the operator (i.e. an additional vehicle and driver), the problem could not be resolved leaving the operator exposed to possible penalties imposed by the Traffic Commissioner for the Welsh Traffic Office, which could include the possible loss of the operator's licence. Therefore Cabinet approval was sought in order to increase payments by £6,000 per annum for this Contract to enable the operator to provide the additional resources required to provide an achievable schedule on Sundays and bank holiday Mondays without the loss of actual service provision. Without Cabinet approval the operator would have to introduce a reduced service timetable to enable existing resources to meet a more achievable timetable.

Cardiff Bus had offered to re-route its commercial Service 95A in the Penarth area in order to serve the Penarth Heights development. Monday to Saturday daytime the service would run every 30 minutes from Cardiff to Llandough Hospital then split once per hour clockwise and once per hour anti-clockwise to serve Redlands Road, Stanwell Road, Penarth Town Centre, Penarth Heights and The Cowslip. The existing Contract Agreement for this Bus Service could be provided on an annual basis up to and including 2019 between the first Saturday in July and the last Sunday in September. Other additional options were also considered to serve the new development such as evening and Sunday service provision and further extension of the route to include Penarth Esplanade. However the report considered that the prices quoted for these options were not financially viable at the time. The report noted that existing service provision provided by Service 95A along the majority of Redlands Road and Stanwell Road would still be available but the service would run in the opposite direction hourly.

Previous years had seen the Summer Bus Service 91 operate from July to September, however, as Penarth Town Council had offered again to contribute to financially supporting the service the report proposed to provide the enhancement to Service 91 from Saturday 30 April, 2016 until Sunday 25 September, 2016. This was in line with the operation of Summer Service 91. Running an extension to the existing Summer 91 bus service was the most cost effective option for the Council and Penarth Town Council. Other options, such as running a standalone service were not seen as financially viable at the time. It was anticipated that the extension of Bus Service 91 (Cardiff – Penarth Pier) would again encourage greater visitor numbers to Penarth and the Vale of Glamorgan over the summer months.

After presenting this item, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration added that two weeks before the meeting, the Council had been informed by the original provider of the 89a and 89b bus route that they would withdraw from the contract with no notice. To minimise disruption, officers of the Council worked over a weekend to set up a temporary service for the start of the following week, and successfully retendered the service within the fortnight.

The Cabinet Member for Visible and Leisure Services fully supported the report, and added that the Supported Bus Service 321 from Llantwit Major to Talbot Green had been a tremendous success. He further commended New Adventure Travel as they were doing a very good job supporting local bus services.

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 extension of the current contract for Supported Bus Service 321 (Llantwit Major to Talbot Green) to 31 March, 2017 be approved.
- (2) T H A T the revision of the bus timetable for the partially supported bus 303/304 (Bridgend - Barry - Cardiff) service on Sundays and bank holiday Mondays at an additional cost of £6,000 per annum funded from the Public Transport budget be approved.
- (3) T H A T it be agreed the Council enter a de minimis Contract Agreement with Cardiff Bus to re-schedule the existing commercial service (95A, Cardiff – Penarth) to serve the Penarth Heights development, initially using Section 106

planning funds from the development in this area to support the service, and pending a further review of the service during Spring 2017.

- (4) T H A T the re-scheduling of the Cardiff Bus summer commercial Service 91 (Cardiff – Penarth Pier) to include Penarth Marina and further extend the bus service through to Cosmeston Country Park and Lakes funded from the Public Transport budget, be agreed.
- (5) T H A T thanks be given to staff in the public transport team for their hard work to ensure that bus services 89a and 89b were maintained despite the previous provider withdrawing from the contract at short notice.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide continued service provision beyond the current service's trial period (from 5 January, 2015 to 31 March, 2016).
- (2) To improve service reliability without reducing actual service provision, as the current schedule was based on timings that were no longer achievable in reality.
- (3) To provide local bus service provision and a bus stop facility in the Penarth Heights area of Penarth following a new residential redevelopment in this area.
- (4) To help promote the local attractions and businesses in the Penarth area by making them more accessible to visitors arriving on foot from Cardiff Bay via the Cardiff Bay Barrage and from Cardiff City Centre and Cardiff Bay by public transport during the summer months.
- (5) To congratulate staff on their hard work.

C3102 ESPLANADE (BEACH CLIFF DEVELOPMENT), PENARTH – PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – OBJECTION REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME (VLS) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY NAD ENVIRONMENT) -

Cabinet was advised of an objection received related to the proposed alterations to the parking restrictions on the Esplanade, Penarth.

On 23 June, 2014 the then Cabinet Member for the Environment and Visible Services and Director of Visible Services and Housing gave approval to issue public

notice of a proposed limited waiting scheme for parking bays (10am to 7pm) 2 hours, no return within 2 hours and revocation of a length of no waiting at any time along the Esplanade (part), Penarth. The proposed amendments to existing parking restrictions were required to comply with the approved planning consent for the new Beach Cliff development, which included a mix of residential and commercial use.

Accordingly, public notice of the proposals was given on 26 June, 2014 with objections being invited in writing by 18 July, 2014. The previous highway configuration featured a 'build out', which was reserved for restaurant seating. This area had now been liberated, which would permit a further approximate thirteen echelon parking bays for visitors to Penarth Esplanade, the overall length of which was reproduced in Appendix D attached to the report. The consent notice for the development's most recent planning permission contained a condition that a new Traffic Regulation Order, which included the formal laying out of parking spaces on the public highway outside the site, had to be in place before the development came into beneficial use.

One objection was received by email from the developer, a copy of which was attached in Appendix B to the report. The reason for the objection was highlighted in the report, together with the traffic officer response.

The report concluded that there was significant demand for parking on the Esplanade which was particularly high during the summer season. Whilst the requirement for designated residents' parking to service the new Beachcliff development was recognised after due consideration and deliberation, the report considered that the demand for visitor parking should take precedent. Also, due to the timing of the restrictions proposed, residents or visitors would be able to park from 5:00pm on any one day until before 12 midday the following day.

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 objection be rejected and approval be granted to progress with the proposed Order, a plan and schedule of which was attached at Appendices C and D to the report, with the objector advised accordingly.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To confirm the Council's position.
- (2) To enable the Order to be made.

C3103 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.

C3104 COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS 2016/17 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CORPORATE RESOURCES) -

Matter which the Chairman had decided was urgent by reason of enabling the Council Tax to be set by 11 March, 2016.

Approval was sought to set the Council Tax for 2016/17, to be recommended to Council on 10 March, 2016 for final approval.

The Council was required under statute to fix the level of Council Tax for 2016/17 by 11 March, 2016. The final decision on the budget could not be delegated and had to be made at a meeting of Council.

This was a matter for Council decision

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

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet recommend to Council the following:-

T H A T the Council Tax for 2016/17 be set for its own purposes (excluding police and town and community council precepts) at the following levels: (assuming there is no change in the Aggregate External Finance received by this Council from Welsh Government, following the debate at the Welsh Assembly on 9 March, 2016).

Band	Council Tax £
A	740.82
B	864.29
C	987.76
D	1,111.23
E	1,358.17
F	1,605.11
G	1,852.05
H	2,222.46
I	2,592.87

Reason for decision

To set Council Tax levels for 2016/17.