

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 18 June, 2018.

Present: Councillor J. Thomas (Chairman), Councillor H. Jarvie (Vice – Chairman)
Councillors: J. Bird, G. Cox, G. Kemp, A. Parker and B. Penrose

Also Present: Councillor B. Gray.

C337 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June, 2018 be approved as a correct record with the amendment to include the attendance of Councillor I Johnson who was also present at the June 6 Cabinet meeting.

C338 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declarations of interest were received:

Councillor G Cox	<p>Agenda Item - 7 – Physic Garden, Cowbridge.</p> <p>Reason for Declaration –</p> <p>He was a Member of the Cowbridge Physic Garden.</p> <p>Agenda Item - 9 – Education Asset Renewal Building Programme 2018/19.</p> <p>Reason for Declaration –</p> <p>A Local Education Authority (LEA) appointed Governor on Y Bont Faen Primary School Cowbridge.</p> <p>As a Local Education Authority appointed 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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Councillor G Kemp	<p>Agenda Item - 9 – Education Asset Renewal Building Programme 2018/19.</p> <p>Reason for Declaration –</p> <p>A Local Education Authority (LEA) appointed Governor on Rhws Primary School.</p> <p>As a Local Education Authority appointed Governor his personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest and therefore he was able to speak and vote on the matter.</p>
Councillor A Parker	<p>Agenda Item - 7 – Physic Garden, Cowbridge.</p> <p>Reason for Declaration –</p> <p>He was a Member of the Cowbridge Physic Garden.</p>

C339 TRANSGENDER INCLUSION TOOLKIT AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER SETTINGS (REF) -

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 22 May, 2018 considered the above report.

Councillor Dr. I. Johnson, not a Member of the Committee, had requested that the toolkit and guidance document (which had been approved by Cabinet on 30th April 2018) be called in for consideration for the reason that “the capacity of the Vale Council and others to successfully and appropriately implement these guidelines should be confirmed before their adoption otherwise they run the risk of becoming warm words that cannot be substantiated and would fail to support vulnerable people that they have been developed to protect”.

In introducing the call-in, Councillor Johnson stated that some of the questions he wished addressed related to the support to be provided to young people, the confidentiality issues for young people, the responsibility of the Council to ensure the toolkit’s appropriateness, whether all schools would be accepting the guidelines or whether they would be optional, did the Council have appropriate mental health support for transgender queries and whether the Council was positively able to influence the outcomes for young people.

The Chairman, in advising of the procedures for the meeting, stated that five members of the public had registered to speak on the matter, and seven written

representations had been received, six from members of the public and one from a Councillor, not a Member of the Committee, but who was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of all the representations had been tabled at the meeting for all present and for Committee's consideration. The Chairman also referred to three expert witnesses that she had invited to speak to the Committee who had direct experience and levels of expertise in the field namely Lisa Power MBE, LGBT Historian, previous policy director of the Terrence Higgins trust and a founder of the organisation Stonewall, Lu Thomas Chair of PRIDE Cymru, local school governor and Equalities consultant and Ceri Lambert and her daughter Row Jones. Row was an art student in the Vale and had begun her transition whilst at school.

The Safeguarding Officer in presenting the report advised that the Transgender Inclusion Toolkit was a guidance document, the purpose of which was to provide information and guidance for schools and other settings in the Vale of Glamorgan on how it could effectively support transgender, transgender questioning young people and prevent transphobia. The report also outlined that in 2016 a number of Vale of Glamorgan schools had asked for additional advice and guidance on the subject. The document had therefore been developed in response. The document had also been developed on behalf of the five Central South Consortium Local Authorities and the report noted that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council had already adopted the guidance and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had announced its intention to adopt the guidance.

In drafting the document a lot of consideration had been given to developing the guidance. Stonewall Cymru had also endorsed the guidance and stated that the document was "one of the most comprehensive pieces of guidance I had seen in Wales". The document had primarily been written for headteachers and staff to assist in complying with the legislation and to also provide practical guidance when discussing transgender issues. When compiling the guidance colleagues had been very careful to note that nothing conflicted with other guidance and a real effort had been made to ensure that there was no conflict of rights with any other group.

Prior to any further discussion the Chairman took the opportunity to remind all present of the parameters of the issue under discussion.

Following the officer's summary of the report the Chairman then asked the first public speaker who had registered to speak to make their representations. The Chairman made it clear that each speaker would have up to three minutes to make their representations and requested all speakers to be mindful of the need for their contribution to relate to the call-in.

Ms. Sarah Tanburn commenced by advising that promoting a safe and inclusive environment was important and stated that she was a long term equalities activist. Ms. Tanburn asked the Committee to consider referring the report back to Cabinet in respect of the nature of the Equalities Impact in respect of a number of characteristics, stating that she was not convinced the Council had a robust Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). Ms. Tanburn further stated that guidance existed which advised of a common sense approach when such decisions are taken and that in this particular case the Council would need to take into consideration sex, faith, disability and age and that there had been a lot of debate and case law on the

subject that sex was not a gender. In her view, Ms. Tanburn felt that the EIA should be specific to the Vale and consider the potential discriminatory impacts and where questions of mitigation should be addressed. In conclusion, Ms. Tanburn advised that she herself had written an EIA, knew how they worked and saw no evidence in the report that a robust assessment had been undertaken.

Ms. Sue Quinn-Aziz stated that she was a parent of a teenage child in the Vale of Glamorgan and that she welcomed the Vale's initiative on developing the document, which she felt needed to be addressed but considered that the report was suggesting a one size fits all solution. Ms. Quinn-Aziz further stated that it was important to have regard to preparing all cultures and trans girls and boys for using facilities in schools and to understand the culture and issues involved. In her view the report was silent on safe guarding guidance, health and safety assessments, fairness, gender neutral options. In conclusion she also queried there appeared to be no reference around age and different age group issues provided within the guidance.

Following a question from Councillor Johnson as to whether Ms. Quinn-Aziz could advise whether she was happy with the scenarios identified in the toolkit in response, Ms. Quinn-Aziz stated that she did not think school staff had been presented with the full range of options and in particular it was important to bear in mind that "one size does not fit all".

Ms. Carryn Williams, whose background was from working in services for young people, advised that she supported the principle of guidance being provided but that, in her view, there had been no consideration in the report for girls when menstruating. With there being over 5000 young girls in the Vale of Glamorgan this was an important aspect she felt that should have been addressed. There were also other vulnerable groups that could be affected in particular those with autism who themselves may lack judgement and require assistance in dealing with such matters. With regard to the teachers, there was no reference to capacity in schools and in particular how a teacher would advise children. In conclusion, Ms. Williams asked the Scrutiny Committee to refer the report back to Cabinet having regard to the implications she had outlined.

Ms. Jennifer Charles advised that she was a trans woman parent and a member of the Wales Equality Alliance. In referring to statistics, Ms. Charles referred to a recent all-Wales survey undertaken in 2017 in partnership with the Centre of Equality Research at Cambridge which advised that 84% of trans people had self-harmed, 45% had attempted suicide and 95% had received death threats. Such incidents having been caused by bullying and hostile environments that people had found themselves in. Ms. Charles stated that being trans was not a condition or illness and it was wrong to stop a child from dealing with their gender issues and indeed if anyone did so they would go against NHS guidance on the matter. In her view trans children should be allowed to reassign gender if they wished to do and should receive support to do so. There was considerable evidence that the wellbeing of transgender people when supported had improved as a result. In her view the toolkit provided that the Vale was in accordance with the Equality Act and working to community cohesion and urged the Council to roll out the toolkit throughout all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Mrs. Anne Greagsby stated that the toolkit promoted a dangerous myth that children were born in the wrong body. In her view, gender was a social issue and that children had vivid imaginations and they needed support in acknowledging changes in their body. On two occasions the Chairman asked Ms. Greagsby to refrain from making comments inappropriate and unrelated to the call-in. In conclusion Ms. Greagsby stated that she would not want to be referred to as si or sis and teachers had been advised to address pupils in such manners which she did not think was appropriate.

Having heard from members of the public who had registered to speak, the Chairman then asked Ms. Ceri Lambert and Row Jones to address the Committee, advising that they had both been invited to the meeting as expert witnesses with first-hand experience on the subject. Ms. Row Jones advised that informing trans children about the medical issues required was important and that trans children also themselves tried to inform themselves before any changes were made.

Ms. Lambert advised Committee that she had three children all of whom were currently attending schools in Penarth. Row was her eldest daughter and was transgender and had the full support of family and friends. Ms. Lambert advised that she had studied the guidance and had no hesitation in recommending this for approval for use in Vale of Glamorgan schools. In referring to previous speakers she said that the vast majority had not been unkind. She had been slightly concerned when the toolkit had been called-in as there had been a significant increase in verbal abuse online as a result, the form of abuse being levied in similar form to abuse directed at gay people in 1970s. As a result, in her view there was even more reason for the adoption of the Transgender Toolkit to stop trans bullying in schools and on social media. Ms. Lambert also stated that there was an even greater need for a sympathetic environment and considered that a significant amount of the abuse was as a result of misinformed panic. Both Ms. Lambert her and her daughter endorsed the toolkit and hoped that it would enhance the sterling work that equalities in schools was undertaking.

Ms. Lisa Power, MBE, who had also been a founder member of the Stonewall organisation and was an LGBT historian, stated that there were parallels today similar to the way in which attitudes to lesbian and gay men had been in the 80s and 90s and asked the question "do you want to go down that road again?" Ms. Power referred to a recent announcement by Welsh Government in relation to LGBT education and advice in schools stating that this was an important step to supporting guidance for children and school teachers alike. Ms. Power referred to the fact that only a small number of people actually undertake transition but that everyone was entitled to respect and support. Toolkits like the Vale's suggested document were about supporting teachers in schools in addressing and dealing with issues. Under the Equality Act 2010 single sex changing rooms had been established and trans people when starting transition were entitled to use these facilities. There had also she stated not been any documented examples of issues that had been raised to date. Ms. Power also referred to the repeal of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 and the well informed statistics for example that 45% of young trans people had attempted suicide and in her view schools had a vital part to play in supporting

pupils. Similar toolkits had already been agreed in other localities and were currently in use.

The Chair of Pride Cymru and a school Governor in the Vale of Glamorgan, Lu Thomas, also informed the Committee that 54% of trans people were bullied. 1 in 10 were subject to death threats and nearly 80% of pupils had never learnt the meaning of transgender. 1 in 3 transgender pupils were not able to be known by their preferred name and 84% of trans people had self-harmed. The toolkit she stated meant something to trans children and their parents and although not perfect was a start. Committee was informed that “We all want our children to be safe and supported and create active, positive, engaging students and that treating people with respect was important”. It was also important, Ms. Thomas advised, that we should think about what message we will be sending to children if the toolkit was not adopted. Section 28 she said failed, and it had been a pointless and mean spirited piece of legislation.

At this stage the Chairman took the opportunity to remind all present of the written representations that had been received for consideration during the meeting and which had been previously circulated to Committee Members.

The Head of Achievement for All, in referring to the report, commented similarly to previous speakers that the toolkit although not perfect was a start. It had also, he said, been long overdue as schools had been requesting guidance for some time. In referring to the report, he stated that the Council was not dictating to schools it was about presenting scenarios and options, to consider provision and address issues. The statistics in relation to young people being bullied, death threats etc. were scandalous in his view and although the guidance would not answer every single question that may be asked, he was proud that the Council was at the forefront in Wales of promoting the adoption of the toolkit.

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture, with permission to speak, stated it was important to have such a debate and took the opportunity to thank Councillor Johnson for submitting the call-in.

Following the presentations of evidence the Chairman then referred to Members of the Committee. In considering the document a number of Members commented that it was important that teachers and staff had such information as guidance in order to handle required situations. A Member also asked whether there had been any feedback by other Local Authorities who had adopted such guidance with the Head of Service advising that no evaluation had as yet been made, although he could advise that discussions had been positive in respect of the toolkit. The guidance he further advised offered schools guidance for examples of what types of questions should be considered.

Following on from information received from the speakers a Co-Opted Member commented that sympathetic approaches need to be ensured and referred to an example in her own experience of a child being able to use their preferred name in schools as opposed to their birth name. Another Councillor who had worked at events in conjunction with Pride Cymru stated that it was important to have a vigorous debate on policy, schools were asking for advice and guidance and it was

important for the debate to be undertaken in order that appropriate guidance could be rolled out to schools. The Member also considered it important that Governors of schools also had similar debates to decide their schools' policy. The document itself Members commented also pulled together other documents that already existed and it was important to have diverse views in order for considerations to be given.

To this end, all Members in turn thanked the public speakers and the expert witnesses for attending the meeting.

Following a further question as to whether the Committee would have further opportunity to revisit the document to assess its impact once rolled out into schools, the Head of Achievement for All stated that it was important that a period of reflection took place and views obtained from young people including its impact on young people. The Head of Service reiterated that the document was not about one particular group it had been framed for equalities for all.

The Safeguarding Officer informed Committee that the second edition of the guidance was currently being developed and took the opportunity to thank everyone present at the meeting including all speakers as the information they had provided would inform the second document. A Member also took the opportunity to thank Ceri Lambert and Row Jones for attending and providing details of their own personal experiences and referred to the importance that everyone was treated fairly and respectfully.

The Director of Learning and Skills reiterated that the document was guidance not policy and that the piece of work deserved to be in the public domain. The feedback received had been positive and the document would meet the needs of young vulnerable people.

Councillor Johnson, in being offered a further opportunity to respond, advised that comparisons to Section 28 were directly comparable. He did however, have some concerns as to the amount of support that would be available for young people and suggested that the document be also forwarded to the Corporate Parenting Panel for their consideration.

During further discussion, the Chairman advised that it was important for the Scrutiny Committee to identify matters as part of their Work Programme and that it would also be important in her view to invite schools to the Committee to talk about their experiences 12 months after the toolkit had been rolled out.

Having fully considered the report and the representations received it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings attached at Appendix A to the report be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee receives a report in 12 months assessing the impact of the toolkit, in partnership with schools.

(3) T H A T Cabinet be requested to refer the document to the Corporate Parenting Panel for their consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To enable the Guidance document to be adopted as guidance for schools in the Vale of Glamorgan and rolled out to schools.
- (2) In order that the Scrutiny Committee can monitor and review progress.
- (3) For the Corporate Parenting Panel's consideration."

At the Meeting the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture made reference to having received two email representations with regards to the Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings from Mr M Wallis and Ms A Greagsby.

He commented that a full debate about the Transgender tool kit took place at the Scrutiny Committee Learning and Culture meeting held on 22nd May. He said it was noted by the Scrutiny Committee that the Toolkit was not a policy but a guidance document for schools to use as they considered appropriate. Schools had their own equality policies which were distinct from the Council's. Governing bodies would need to consider the impact of their application of the guidance in their specific context.

He further commented that all references used in the toolkit had been researched and were considered appropriate. The toolkit would be reviewed periodically and updated to reflect feedback from schools and new research.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted and forwarded to the next Corporate Parenting Panel meeting for consideration.

Reason for decision

To note contents of the report and forward to the next Corporate Parenting Panel meeting for consideration.

C340 PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE SHARED SERVICE FOR INTERNAL AUDIT TO INCLUDE RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE(S) – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES AND AUDIT)

Cabinet approval was sought to propose a change to the current Internal Audit Shared Service to extend the Partnership Agreement to include Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils.

In recent years, collaborative working activity had increased at pace in response to the challenging financial climate and also in recognition of the value that working in partnership to share skills, expertise and experience could have in tackling increasingly complex issues.

The provision of Internal Audit was recognised by all Councils as core to their effective governance, risk management and control arrangements. The requirement for Councils to maintain appropriate and effective internal audit arrangements was set out in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 and prior to these the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

The Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan Internal Audit Shared Service had been fully operational under a formal partnership agreement since February 2013, which had been extended to 31st January 2020 as both Authorities had experienced the advantages of the shared service. Since its inception the Shared Service had delivered consistently against the approved annual risk based plans and achieved the necessary coverage in order to issue a robust, evidence based audit opinion at the end of each year as well as fully complying with its statutory requirements under the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). In addition, significant benefits had been realised by bringing the sections together, some of which included; effective use of the total audit resource, knowledge sharing and harmonising working practices and systems.

As such the IASS had and was achieving the following objectives:

- The service was affordable and represented value for money, delivering efficiencies and economies of scale;
- The service enhanced the professionalism and quality of audit services provided to both Councils through shared knowledge and best practice;

- The service was flexible and could respond to changing service requirements and priorities; and
- The service could extend access to specialist audit services and other related disciplines to both Councils;
- The service complied with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards

The service had operated very effectively since 2013, however, the service had faced some challenges over the past 18 months in terms of recruitment, although this had presented the opportunity for a more proactive and focused approach being taken in respect of workforce planning and growing the service to ensure its continued success. As a consequence of this, Section 151 Officers of all four Councils had been considering whether there would be any benefits in extending the current partnership arrangement to include the two additional authorities.

The principal functions of the Internal Audit Sections at the four participating Councils were broadly similar. The development of a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service offered the opportunity to bring together related and complimentary professional disciplines across the Councils. Discussions had concluded that Internal Audit was a service that could be delivered on a regional basis and a larger shared service would benefit all the local authorities in many ways, including :

- The business case evidenced that overall savings could be made whilst ensuring the level of internal audit resources available would be sufficient to form an opinion on effective governance, risk management and control arrangements in place for each authority;
- The development of a larger service would provide career opportunities for staff which should encourage individuals to remain within the service ;
- The service would be able to develop specialist services ;
- The development of a shared service would meet the aspirations of Welsh Government with regard to increased regional working ; and
- The service would be more resilient than the current audit teams are in the existing arrangements.

In addition to the benefits highlighted above, the extended regional service could become more entrepreneurial in its outlook which could include bidding for contracts with other public sector bodies which would drive costs down further.

In order to develop an extended shared service, the following would be required :
A legal Partnership Agreement based on Section 101 / 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 should be entered into between the Councils to delegate the function and formalise the provision of services and basis for cost apportionment ;

All Councils would be required to sign-up to the terms and conditions of this document for a set period of time (proposed minimum of three years) in order to demonstrate commitment;

There should be a single employing authority. The proposal was that this should be the Vale of Glamorgan Council, however this was subject to agreement by the Cabinets of all the partner Authorities and Staff currently employed in the audit function by the Local Authorities would be subject to TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings - Protection of Employment Regulations) and transferred to the employing Council.

A new staffing structure should be implemented to ensure the RIASS was fit for purpose and able to deliver the level of service required. It was proposed that staff be transferred into the extended service on their current terms and conditions. The new staffing structure should then be implemented after all staff were employed by the employing Council. Joint working between the HR services in all authorities would be required to support this.

It was proposed that oversight of the RIASS would be a Joint Partnership Board comprising the respective Section 151 Officers (or their nominees) from each Council. The Board would monitor the performance of the IASS to ensure that it delivered the standards and expectations set out in the partnership agreement. Whilst the partners would jointly oversee the performance of the RIASS, the responsibility for the adequacy of the whole system of internal audit would remain with the Councils themselves, who would remain responsible for approving audit plans and monitoring delivery via the Council's respective Audit Committees. This would be fully compliant with and would support each Audit Committee's Terms of Reference.

Individual Councils would continue to be responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of the internal audit function at Council level and holding the Head of Internal Audit to account for delivery of the approved Audit Plan. They would also be responsible for the effectiveness of their governance, risk management and control arrangements, hold managers to account for delivery and receive regular progress updates on internal audit work, consider key themes and issues and take them forward as necessary.

Initial indications of the level of service required had been considered and the information had been used to determine the indicative costs of the service. The costs would be shared in proportion to the level of service required on a full cost recovery basis.

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 proposal that the Shared Service for Internal Audit be extended to include Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils be approved
- (2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council hosts the extended service and becomes the employer of all staff within the service.
- (3) T H A T the Managing Director and the Section 151 Officer, be authorised in consultation with the Leader, to make the necessary detailed arrangements under delegated authority to establish the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service (RIASS) , including admission of further interested parties if appropriate subject to an agreed Partnership Agreement and Contract.
- (4) T H A T a legal Partnership Agreement based on Section 101 / 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 be entered into between the Councils to delegate the function and formalise the provision of services and basis for cost apportionment
- (5) T H A T the Head of Legal Services be authorised to execute the Partnership Agreement referred to in resolution 4 above.
- (6) T H A T the report be referred to Audit Committee for consideration and approval.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable the extension of the current service to develop a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service that would reinforce business resilience, further

enhance the range of audit expertise available to the Council and support the delivery of a more efficient service.

- (2) To establish the Vale of Glamorgan as the host authority for the new shared service for internal audit.
- (3-4) To enable the extension of the current service to develop a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service that would reinforce business resilience, further enhance the range of audit expertise available to the Council and support the delivery of a more efficient service.
- (5) To provide the authority for legal to execute the legal documentation
- (6) To enable the extension of the current service to develop a Regional Internal Audit Shared Service that would reinforce business resilience, further enhance the range of audit expertise available to the Council and support the delivery of a more efficient service.

**C341 B4270, LLANTWIT MAJOR ROAD (PART), COWBRIDGE –
PROPOSED ROUTE RECLASSIFICATION (NST) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) -**

Approval was sought to reclassify part of route B4270, Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge and to classify the new Darren Farm link road, as the B4270, Llanfrynach Drive.

A planning application (2014/01505/OUT) was submitted to the Council in outline form, seeking consent for full planning permission for a link road and outline consent for 475 dwellings, associated infrastructure and school site, on land to the north west of Cowbridge.

The full application related to the construction of a link road connecting the Cowbridge Bypass (A48) with Llantwit Major Road (B4270) and associated highway works including footpaths, cycleways, bus stops, landscaping and associated engineering/ infrastructure works.

The link road was designed to a 40mph speed limit, with a 7.3m carriageway. The maximum gradient of the link road was 6% at the southern side of the watercourse and the road would have a length of approximately 900 metres, with works on the A48 and the Llantwit Major Road to connect. A new roundabout junction would be introduced on the A48 to connect with the new road. The link from the Llantwit Major

Road to the A48 Cowbridge bypass would become the main arm of a priority ghost island junction, and the B4270 Llantwit Major Road east of the junction would become the minor arm.

The new road would include three priority junctions to access the proposed residential development to the east. Footways/cycleways would be provided at all accesses to connect a pedestrian route to the west of the link road. An informal crossing on the Link Road would provide a link to an existing Public Right of Way ('PRoW') leading to St Brynach's Church and lane.

The B4270, Llantwit Major Road (part) between the proposed new Link Road and Westgate would become an unclassified, unnumbered road and the new Link Road, to be known as Llanfrynach Drive would become part of the B4270, The Welsh Government application form and accompanying drawing (T/18/69/MS) were attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B' to the report.

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 approval be granted to proceed with the application to Welsh Government for the change in road classification of part of route B4270 Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To advise Members on road reclassification and the process for this.
- (2) To agree the application to Welsh Government for reclassification of part of route B4270 Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge.

**C342 PHYSIC GARDEN, COWBRIDGE (SCHL) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
– HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) -**

During Consideration of this item the Cabinet Members for Neighbour Services and Transport and Housing and Building Services left the room and took no part in any discussions that took place.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care Health and Leisure recommended that this item be deferred to a future meeting in order that further clarity around the lease could be obtained from the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance.

RESOLVED – T H A T the report be deferred to a future meeting.

Reason for decision

To obtain further clarity from the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance.

**C343 LANDLORD SERVICE - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC
ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY (HBS) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) -**

Cabinet was advised to adopt the new Domestic Abuse Policy for the Council's Landlord Service and was advised of the Council's proposed response to incidents of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDA-SV) in accordance with the new National Strategy 2016-2021.

On 20th October 2014 Cabinet approved a Landlord Service Domestic Abuse Policy (Cabinet Minute C2495). This set out the expected Housing response to reported incidents of domestic abuse.

Since that date, the Welsh Government introduced the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 and launched the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in November 2016. The Landlord Service had therefore now produced a new VAWDA-SV Policy to comply with the updated legislation and Strategy.

VAWDA-SV could affect anyone at any time during their lives, with 1 in 4 women being affected by domestic abuse in their lifetimes. This meant that a significant

number of those living within Council properties would be affected by abuse or even considered as perpetrators of domestic abuse. It was therefore essential that there was clear guidance in place detailing the approach the Council would take as a Landlord.

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 also introduced changes in how landlords could support victims of domestic abuse by allowing joint tenancies to be modified with greater ease, as well as enabling appropriate action to be taken against perpetrators. These changes were therefore also reflected in the new Landlord Services VAWDA-SV Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The new Landlord Services VAWDA-SV Policy outlined a range of options to support victims to either remain in their home safely or support them to seek alternative accommodation.

The Policy also reinforced the importance of joint working in relation to tackling domestic abuse. As well as supporting victims; this included referring victims into the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Meeting (MARAC) and to Atal Y Fro (the local domestic abuse support agency), Safer Vale and South Wales Police.

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 new Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act Policy for the Council's Landlord Services attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.
- (2) T H A T the report and new Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Act Policy be referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for information purposes.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure compliance with the National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and to provide clear guidelines to Housing staff so that the appropriate response is provided to any reported incidents.

- (2) To ensure Members were aware of the new Landlord Services - Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy.

C344 EDUCATION ASSET RENEWAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2018/19 (LC) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – LEARNING AND CULTURE) -

To gain Cabinet approval for schemes to be funded from the Council's 2018/19 Education Asset Renewal capital programme.

Council on 28 February 2018, minute number C745, approved the 2018/19 Capital Programme. £965k was approved for Education Asset Renewal works; subsequently Cabinet approved the allocation of £100k to support the conversion of respite accommodation to classrooms at Ysgol Y Deri. The sum of £865k remained to be allocated within the Education asset renewal programme. In addition a further £50k budget had been allocated as a contingency.

It was necessary to draw up a programme of schemes to be funded from the Education Asset Renewal budget. A prioritised list of schemes had been developed by the Property Section in consultation with the Learning and Skills Directorate, by adopting the following criteria and processes:

- Extracting from completed property condition surveys, works that had been identified as high priority.
- Utilising the existing backlog list of prioritised schemes which had been reviewed and updated throughout the year.

The proposed programme was outlined in Appendix A, attached to this report.

When presenting the report the Leader recommended that the reference to 200k in respect of the flat roof renewal for Peterston Super Ely Primary School be deferred pending a further report from officers.

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 allocation of funding from the Schools Asset Renewal budget to the proposed schemes listed in Appendix A as attached to the report with the exception of the £200k for the flat roof renewal at Peterston Super – Ely Primary School be approved.
- (2) T H A T the 200k in respect of the flat roof renewal for Peterston Super Ely Primary School be deferred pending a further report from officers.
- (3) T H A T the Council be authorised to tender the various works required and that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to execute the resulting contract documentation.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allocate the 2018/19 Education Asset Renewal budget and enable procurement to commence.
- (2) To enable further feasibility work to be undertaken on the project.
- (3) To enable the procurement of the necessary works and to enable execution of the requisite contracts if required in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.