

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 1st April, 2019.

Present: Councillor J.W. Thomas (Chairman); Councillor T.H. Jarvie (Vice-Chairman); Councillors J.C. Bird, G.A. Cox, B.T. Gray, A.C. Parker and R.A. Penrose.

Also present: Councillors K.F.McCaffer, Dr.I.J. Johnson and N.C. Hodges

C629 MINUTES -

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C630 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

No declarations were received.

C631 WALES AUDIT OFFICE: VALE OF GLAMORGAN WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD (WHQS) REVIEW INCLUDING COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS PERSPECTIVE (REF) -

Cabinet were presented with a reference from the Audit Committee as set out below:

The report had been referred to the Audit Committee by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee. Mr. S. Wyndham (Wales Audit Office) advised on the findings of the review which had been undertaken by the Wales Audit Office as part of the Council's Annual Audit Plan for 2016/17. The purpose of the review had been to ascertain how Local Authorities were listening and reacting to the views of its local residents with a particular focus on the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) for Council tenants. The report findings concluded that overall, the Council had met the WHQS with effective arrangements for tenant engagement and most tenants had been satisfied with the quality of their home.

The Wales Audit Office report made two proposals for improvement:

- The Council should evaluate how effective the process was for tenants to report housing repairs via the Customer Contact Centre (C1V);
- The Council should work with tenants to review its approach to assisting people experiencing problems with condensation and damp.

The Operational Manager for Building Services stated that it was in the main a positive report and in line with the Council's performance monitoring arrangements, the proposals for improvement would be addressed as part of the service planning process for 2019/20. They had also been incorporated within the Council's Insight Tracker which monitored progress on all regulatory actions on a monthly basis.

Members of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee would also receive a six monthly update report on all regulatory actions relevant to the Committee.

In considering the report, a Member queried whether C1V was the standard method of reporting problems with buildings and also queried the response rate. The Operational Manager confirmed that tenants reported issues largely through C1V, which was the preferred avenue, although the Department was considering other avenues that could be utilised to support residents, i.e. smart phones which could document the number of transactions, and the department was considering new ICT software which would alleviate the pressure for C1V.

A Member who had been present at the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting advised that as detailed in the reference, the Committee had considered the report in detail, commenting that it was also a positive report, but requested an appointment with the officer to consider the concerns raised by residents following telephone interviews. The officer advised that he would be happy to meet the Member.

The Chairman, having regard to the issue of damp, advised that if there was an increase in "black spots" this needed to be drawn to tenants' attention.

The Chairman stated that in his experience there was only one way communication with C1V and no follow up reports were provided. It was agreed that having regard to the Council's Digital Strategy and the Council's move towards interactions online, improving communication would be key.

Having considered the report it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the reference from the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee and the comments of the Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services commented that the report represented good news, and he referred to 83% of tenants being satisfied with the quality of their home, 81% of tenants being satisfied with the overall service and 69% of tenants being satisfied that their views were listened to and acted upon. The Cabinet Member outlined his thanks to the team.

Cabinet, having considered the reference and recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED - T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the contents of the report.

C632 CORPORATE COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT 2017/19 (REF) -

The Leader presented the reference from the Audit Committee considered at its meeting on 25th February, 2019.

At its meeting, the Audit Committee was provided with an update on Corporate Complaints for 2017/19.

The Council adopted the Welsh Government's Model Corporate Concerns and Complaints Policy in July 2013. There was a two-stage process, Stage 1 and Stage 2. Complaints at Stage 1 were seen as informal resolution and should be responded to within 10 working days. Stage 2 complaints were seen as formal complaints and should be responded to within 20 working days. After that the complainant was advised to contact the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW), if they remained unhappy

All Corporate Complaints and Compliments were recorded on Oracle CRM and fed in to the Complaints and Compliments Dashboards.

Corporate Management Team received reports on the performance of corporate complaints. (Social Services complaints performance was reported to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee).

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee received quarterly updates on local performance indicators relating to complaints handling.

The Audit Committee had within its Terms of Reference to monitor the performance of Corporate Complaints and to make recommendations to Cabinet / and or Council as appropriate.

There were a total of 294 complaints logged during 2017/18 compared 393 in 2016/17, a reduction of 99 complaints. It was noted that the number of complaints for 2016/17 was inflated by 90 complaints being raised in August 2016 for Waste Management during changes in waste and recycling collection days across the Vale.

The percentage of complaints escalated to Stage 2 (as shown in Appendix A to the report) showed a slight increase from 14.08% (2016/17) to 15.75% (2017/18). However, the percentage of complaints escalated to Stage 2 for the nine months to 31st December, 2018 reduced to 6.25% out 320 Stage 1 complaints recorded. Overall, the relatively low number of complaints escalated from Stage 1 to Stage 2 would indicate that the Council was investigating and resolving complaints effectively.

During 2017/18, 210 complaints were received for the Environment and Housing Directorate (2016/17 – 303); 70 complaints for the Managing Director and Resources Directorate (2016/17 – 79) and 14 for the Learning and Skills Directorate (2016/17 – 11). Each Directorate experienced a sharp increase in complaints received during Quarter 4 2017/18, with 38 in January, 33 in February and 50 in March 2018.

The percentage of complaints Not Upheld had been relatively consistent standing at 38% in 2016/17, 41.8% in 2017/18 and 36.5% for 2018/19 to 31st December, 2018. During the same periods the percentage of complaints Upheld was 41.8%, 35% and 41.5% respectively.

Overall the percentage of complaints resolved within the 10/20 working day deadlines fell from 75% in 2016/17 to only 56.8% in 2017/18. There had been a slight improvement during the first nine months of 2018/19 to 57.1%. Even though no complaints were received during 2016/17 and 2017/18 relating to the speed of response to complaints (and only one during 2018/19 to date) this remained an area of focus for future work.

Following a query from a Member as to how the officers were going to plan to improve the timeliness of responses and that more informative data capture of identification of calls should be gathered, Members were informed that there was an ongoing issue in respect of timeliness. Although the system was identifying a delay in response, it was uncertain whether this represented a real delay for customers or was as a result in delayed administration of the CRM system. It was noted that a further report would be presented to the Corporate Management Team in May in order that Directors could consider response rates. It was also noted that further training of officers to ensure the capture of the detail of the complaints received had also been undertaken.

Having regard to the 20% drop, a Member queried whether there was a particular reason for this, being advised by the Operational Manager that in essence the percentage drop had been equally spread across all Directorates, there was no specific issue that had been pinpointed.

Having regard to the Council no longer having a Corporate Complaints Officer, the Chairman queried whether a business case should be developed in order that the service could be improved and that a Corporate Complaints Officer position is addressed. Complaints should also be reviewed as an opportunity to improve services, not always seen as a threat. In response, the officer advised that the work previously undertaken by the Complaints Officer role was in relation to the small number of Stage 2 complaints and in dealing with PSOW issues. This work had been redistributed within Customer Relations. Responsibility for investigating Stage 1 complaints lay with all service areas. Managers had been provided with a real time dashboard to help manage the workload, but further tracking opportunities could be considered to assist with improving performance.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Audit Committee continues to receive an annual update in relation to Corporate Complaints and Compliments.

(3) T H A T the report and the comments of the Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Cabinet, having considered the reference and recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED - T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the contents of the report.

C633 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 3 UPDATE (REF) -

The Leader presented the reference received from the Audit Committee as set out below.

The report provided an outline of the Quarter 3 position (April to December 2018) of risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register and outlined in the Corporate Risk Summary Report. There were currently 14 risks on the Register as outlined within Annex A to the report, it being noted that the Audit Committee had endorsed the removal of the Housing Improvement Programme Risk (Wales Housing Quality Standards) from the Register at the end of Quarter 2.

Of the 14 Corporate Risks, in terms of risk status, one risk scored high, one risk scored medium / high, ten risks scored medium and two risks scored medium / low. The overall position of risks on the Register had remained largely unchanged, with the exception of the Waste risk that had increased marginally from a score of 4 to a score of 6, but the risk status had remained a medium (see Page 3 of Annex A).

The heat map for Quarter 3 (Page 4 Annex A) showed that the majority of risks were concentrated at medium. Equally, the thematic heat map showed that the majority of corporate risks congregated around medium across all risk categories.

During Quarter 3, good progress continued to be made in relation to the Risk Management Plans across all aspects of the Register. During Quarter 3, a total of 17 actions (15%) were completed. 75% (87) actions were on track and had been attributed a Green status. Just three actions (2%) were assigned an Amber status to reflect there had been some minor slippage. 8% (9) of actions were assigned a Red status to indicate more significant slippage in progress against actions.

The emerging issues associated with Brexit were discussed in the report where it outlined the Council's current position as a Local Authority and what further preparations would be undertaken. Capacity issues associated with domiciliary care and the brokerage of packages was also discussed. This facet of risk was reflected in the Contract Management risk.

The report recommended that Audit Committee note the Quarter 3 position of the Risks within the Risk Register and refer the report onto Cabinet for their consideration and endorsement.

The Operational Manager for Performance and Policy informed Committee that the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards risk remained high at status 12, and the fact that Social Services continued to experience pressures in relation to their resources as a result of increased demand for Best Interest Assessments which continued to escalate the risk.

Although the implementation of the new social care system Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) had continued to progress, it had not been without its challenges. The extraction of timely and accurate performance data from WCCIS continued to be an ongoing issue. However during Quarter 3 significant strides forward had been made in relation to the cleansing of data. It was anticipated that the majority of the data cleansing would have been undertaken by Quarter 4, so that performance data could be more accurately reported in future quarters. Two further performance posts had been added to the Social Services establishment to further enhance the Council's resilience and capacity to produce the necessary performance reports alongside working with Care Works to develop specific reports for the Council. Equally the appointment of a Senior Systems Administrator position during Quarter 3 had added further resilience to the team and this individual was actively identifying and resolving issues associated with WCCIS as they arose.

Safeguarding also remained scored as medium / low (3) on the Register. Several robust controls being in place to effectively mitigate against the risk and all actions outlined in the Risk Management Plan 2018/19 had been attributed a Green status for their progress during Quarter 3.

The Contract Management risk remained medium to low (3) on the Register and the existing controls continued to be particularly effective and good progress had been made in delivering the actions outlined in the Risk Management Plan during the quarter.

Annex A to the report contained the full Risk Register along with a Risk Summary Report outlining the position of all Corporate Risks.

Following a query regarding Brexit and how it would affect the Council, a Member suggested that the risk should have been highlighted further, stating that in their view it should have been highlighted more clearly, in particular to the risk posed. The Operational Manager stated that there had been considerable discussion around the issue of Brexit and all service areas had considered the matter in their service plans over the last few years. Work was ongoing too, to compile an impact assessment for each service area of the Council, based around a series of risk identified by the Home Office.

The Chairman also commented that, in his view, the overall Risk Register as a document was considerable in size and consideration should be given to improving its format.

A further query in relation to the ALN Bill and the impact on the Committee was considered with Members suggesting that further reports be presented to the Audit Committee on the processes for the ALN Bill from an Audit Committee perspective.

The Operational Manager advised that he would be very happy to relook at the presentation of the Corporate Risk reports with a view to providing an update to Committee following the recess in September 2019.

A Member also made an appeal to the Operational Manager to consider holding discussions with the Democratic Services Team to enable the reporting of performance and risk reports to Committees in as timely a manner as possible.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Quarter 3 position of corporate risks for the period April 2018 – December 2018 be noted and the recommendations of the Corporate Management Team be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the report and the comments of the Audit Committee be referred to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement.

Cabinet, having considered the reference and recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED - T H A T the contents of the report be noted and endorsed.

Reason for decision

To note and endorse the contents of the report.

C634 CABINET ANNUAL STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME MAY 2019 - APRIL 2020 AND CABINET QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAMME - APRIL TO JUNE 2019 (L) (SCRUTINY - ALL) -

The Leader presented the report which sought Cabinet approval of the Forward Work Programme of the Cabinet for the 12 month period May 2019 to April 2020, and the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme from April to June 2019. In addition, the report sought Cabinet approval and or comments in respect of the progress update for the quarter January to March 2019.

The Leader referred to Appendix 3 page 9 and the Tree Strategy report. The Leader advised that the responsibility for this strategy would be transferred from the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

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 position with regard to the January to March 2019 quarterly work programme at Appendix 1 be accepted.
- (2) T H A T the Annual Strategic Work Programme for the period May 2019 to April 2020 and the Quarterly Work Programme for April 2019 to June 2019 be approved.
- (3) T H A T the work programme for May 2019 to April 2020 be published on the Council's website.
- (4) T H A T responsibility for the Tree Strategy be transferred from the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To monitor progress.
- (2&3) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, subordinate legislation and the Council's Constitution in setting annual work programmes.
- (4) To transfer responsibility for the Tree Strategy from the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

C635 VALE OF GLAMORGAN WELLBEING/IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 1 2019/20 (L) (SCRUTINY - ALL) -

The report presented the Council's 8 Well-being (Improvement) Objectives for 2019/20 and the Council's commitments in relation to delivering those objectives. These were reflected in Service Plans to show how individual areas would contribute to their achievement. The report also proposed challenging service improvement targets associated with the Well-being Objectives that would enable us to effectively demonstrate progress towards achieving the Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and contribute to the national Well-being Goals.

Publishing the Council's Well-being Objectives at the start of the financial year would enable the Council to meet its statutory requirements in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

(WFGA), both of which placed specific duties on the Council in relation to objective setting and reporting. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Council was required to publish its Well-being Objectives by 31st March each year and to keep them under review. Under the Local Government Measure, the Council also had to set annual Improvement Objectives and publish these as soon as possible at the start of the financial year.

In line with duties under the WBFG Act, the Council continually reviewed the relevance of the 8 Well-being Objectives in the Corporate Plan through the integrated planning processes in order to ensure the Council continued to reflect the priorities for the Vale of Glamorgan and focus its activity on the areas in need of the most improvement. Ensuring the relevance of Council objectives had been further reinforced via the annual reporting process in 2018, the Public Opinion Survey 2018/19, budget consultation for 2019/20, emerging findings from recent discussions via the Insight Board and the ongoing 'Big Conversation' workshops. As a result, going forward into 2019/20, the Council was assured that the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives and associated priorities continued to be relevant in delivering improved outcomes for Vale residents and contribute to the national Well-being Goals.

In line with the Council's Performance Management Framework, the Corporate Plan priorities for 2019/20 were reflected in Service Plans for 2019-20 which Members had recently endorsed via Scrutiny Committees held in March 2019. Progress against these priorities and proposed service improvement targets would be monitored via quarterly performance reports to the relevant Scrutiny Committees as aligned with the Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and corporate health, supplemented with an overall summary report to Cabinet.

All Scrutiny Committees had considered the Improvement Plan Part 1, associated Service Plans and proposed improvement targets for 2019/20 during March (5th-14th) and had recommended that these be endorsed by Cabinet.

Informed by the recommendations from Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet was being asked to consider and endorsed the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Well-being Objectives, associated Service Plans and improvement targets for 2019/20. This would enable the Council to fully discharge its statutory duty to set and publish its Well-being (Improvement) Objectives for 2019/20 and outlined how it proposed to meet those objectives during 2019/20.

Following approval by Cabinet, publication of the Improvement Plan Part 1 would take place via a variety of media (including social media) which would ensure the Council was complying with its statutory duties. A public summary would also be available online and in the Council's main reception areas.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the views and recommendations from Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being (Improvement) Objectives, associated Service Plans and improvement targets for 2019/20 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Well-being (Improvement) Objectives and Improvement Plan Part 1 2019/20 be endorsed for publication.
- (3) T H A T the Service Plans for 2019/20 be endorsed as the primary documents against which performance for the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives will be monitored and measured.
- (4) T H A T the proposed service improvement targets for 2019/20 aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure the views of all Scrutiny Committees inform the Council's Improvement Plan Part 1, associated Service Plan activities and improvement targets for 2019/20.
- (2) To ensure the Council fully discharges its statutory duties to set and publish its Improvement Plan Part 1, outlining how it proposes to meet its Well-being (Improvement) Objectives for 2019/20.
- (3) To confirm the Service Plans as the primary documents against which performance for the Corporate Plan priorities will be monitored and measured.
- (4) To ensure the Council reports a relevant set of performance indicators against which it can demonstrate achievement of its Corporate Plan priorities and consistently sets challenging yet realistic performance improvement targets for those priorities in line with requirements under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

C636 QUARTER 3 (2018-19) CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (L) (SCRUTINY - ALL) -

The performance report presented progress at quarter 3 towards achieving the Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes for year 3 of the Corporate Plan 2016-20. The report comprised performance information covering the period 1st April to 31st December 2018.

Overall, the Council had made good progress this quarter towards delivering the key outcomes as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20, giving an overall RAG status of AMBER.

3 out of 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes were attributed an overall RAG status of GREEN. An AMBER status had been attributed to Well-being Outcome 3, 'An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale'. An overall GREEN status had been attributed to Corporate Health reflecting the positive progress made to date in integrating the business planning practices and in promoting a 'one Council' approach, to maximising limited resources to deliver the Well-being Outcomes. These developments had contributed to the achievements reported at Quarter 3 and in the long term to achieving improved outcomes for Vale of Glamorgan citizens.

The report identified areas of underperformance relating to each of the 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and the Corporate Health priorities and proposed remedial actions to bring performance back on track.

All Scrutiny Committees reviewed Quarter 3 performance reports between 5th and 14th March 2019 and upon consideration, had noted the performance results and progress to date in relation to their respective Well-being Outcome areas.

The Healthy Living and Social Care, Homes and Safe Communities, Learning and Culture Scrutiny, Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committees all noted Q3 performance results and progress to date in relation to their respective Well-being Outcome areas and the Corporate Health priorities.

The performance report sought Cabinet's consideration of the views and recommendations of Scrutiny Committees in relation to Q3 performance and the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified.

In addition, Cabinet was requested to review overall service performance results to date and progress made towards achieving the Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T progress to date in achieving outcomes in line with Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 be noted and endorsed.

(2) T H A T the performance results and remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified be noted and endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrated the progress being made towards achieving its Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.

(2) To ensure the Council was effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to secure continuous improvement outlined in the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and reflecting the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act that it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.

**C637 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE WORKING UPDATES (L)
(SCRUTINY - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

The Leader presented the report which outlined that collaborative working activity had increased in pace in response to the challenging financial climate and in recognition of the value that working in partnership to share skills, expertise and experience could have in tackling complex issues.

Cabinet received a quarterly update on those collaborations Corporate Management Team (CMT) deemed to be strategically significant (there were many more operational examples of collaboration underway across the authority). The Compendium of Strategic Working Initiatives (Appendix A) provided an oversight of the strategic level collaborative working activity in which the Council was involved, and captured the detail of the various initiatives underway.

The Leader referred to a meeting held with the Welsh Local Government Association, and he commented that there had been a consensus of opinion expressed by other Local Authority representatives that most were against “mandatory” arrangements, and in favour of collaborative working where there was a direct benefit to their respective Authority. These views were shared by the Leader.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the strategic collaborative working initiatives that are in place to support the delivery and development of Council services and the Council's well-being outcomes and objectives be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be circulated by e-mail to all Vale of Glamorgan Council elected members and members of the Public Services Board.

(3) T H A T further updates be provided to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, and in accordance with the forward work programme.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide Cabinet with an overview of strategic collaborative working initiatives.
- (2) To provide elected members and strategic partners with an overview of strategic collaborative working initiatives.
- (3) To provide regular updates for Cabinet.

C638 WELTAG STAGE TWO M4 TO A48 UPDATE (NST) (SCRUTINY - ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) -

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the report which provided Cabinet with an update on progress of the WelTAG Stage Two transport study being undertaken on the M4 Junction 34 to A48 transport corridor and following a meeting of the Review Group for this Study, the report also identified the further work that is being undertaken in respect of:

1. Undertaking environmental surveys and investigations to further inform the recommendations of the Stage Two report.
2. Taking account of the consultation responses to update the concept design of the highway link and junction options.
3. Progressing the proposed Parkway Station at the M4 Junction 34 to a GRIP2 Feasibility Study process (i.e. Governance for Railway Investment Projects).
4. Making recommendations for the progression to a WelTAG Stage Three (Full Business Case) following completion of the additional studies being undertaken as part of the WelTAG Stage Two process and award of Capital Transport Grant funding by Welsh Government.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning commented that the high level of traffic experienced on Port Road over the weekend, demonstrated the need for the proposals to be progressed, and he was keen for these to be taken forward. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Transport agreed with concerns regarding congestion and advised that he was also keen to see the scheme to build a Dinas Powys by-pass progress similarly.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) T H A T the progress made on the WelTAG studies relating to improving the transport network corridor from the M4 Junction 34 to the A48 be noted.
- (2) T H A T this matter be referred to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- (3) T H A T, subject to consideration by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee the progression of the WelTAG studies for the M4 Junction 34 to the A48 to WelTAG Stage Three be endorsed, subject to the Welsh Government Capital Transport Grant funding applied for being made available.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To update members on progress made on the scheme.
- (2) To allow this report to be scrutinised.
- (3) To enable progression of the studies to WelTAG Stage Three in principle.

C639 DEED OF VARIATION VALE, VALLEYS AND CARDIFF COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT (SCHL) (SCRUTINY - HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) -

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure presented the report which sought Cabinet agreement to enter into a Deed of Variation in respect of the Collaborative Agreement between the partner authorities which form Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Service (VVC).

The Service was established on 1st June 2015 and the Collaborative Agreement was signed on that date. A review of the original Agreement had been undertaken in consultation with VVC partners and the proposed changes agreed by VVC Management Board and Joint Committee.

The revisions contained in the updated Deed of Variation brought the original Agreement in line with the requirements of the GDPR and outlined changes to the governance structure of the Service, including the following:

- A Best Value Review of the Service in 2017 recommended that VVC's Management Board move from bi-monthly to quarterly meetings and that twice a year the Directors of Social Services of each of the partner authorities meet with the Management Board.

The Review recommended improving the governance structure by developing consistent processes across the service and the formation of an Operational Group to develop such processes and consider operational matters referred from the Management Board. It had been agreed that this group, comprised of lead officers

from each of the four authorities, would meet with the Regional Adoption Manager and, as required, other regional staff to address service issues and developments and report to the Management Board. The meetings of this group were to be scheduled as a minimum on a quarterly basis.

The Deed of Variation changed the dates of the meeting of the Joint Committee from July to June each year to enable VVC's budget to be signed off and the change in the auditor to the Wales Audit Office.

As part of the consultation regarding the changes, all partner authorities had agreed, through the VVC Management Board and Joint Committee, to extend the Agreement for 5 years and review the arrangements at this point.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T Cabinet agree to enter into a Deed of Variation (Appendix 1) in respect of the Collaborative Agreement between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and RCT County Borough Council dated 1st June 2015 (this is when the original Agreement was commenced).

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree and execute the Deed of Variation

Reasons for decisions

(1) To support the smooth running of the Collaborative going forward and to refine the current governance arrangements and increase accountability at an operational level by the introduction of an operational tier in the governance structure and to ensure the Collaborative Agreement is compliant with the requirements of GDPR.

(2) To enable the timely and correct completion of the Deed of Variation.

C640 PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY WELSH MEDIUM SCHOOL PLACES IN BARRY (LC) (SCRUTINY - LEARNING AND CULTURE) -

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Sant Baruc by:

- Increasing the school capacity for pupils of statutory school age from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021 (paragraph 10 Schedule 2 of School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act ('the Act')).

The Council received 261 responses by the closing date of 22 February 2019. Of the 261 individual responses 232 consultees were in support of the proposal, 25 were opposed and 4 offered no opinion either way. A summary of key themes and issues raised during the consultation exercise was included in the consultation report attached at Appendix A.

Following the completion of the consultation period, a decision was now required on whether to progress the proposals further with the publication of the proposal for the regulated alteration in the form of a statutory notice.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the report, the consultation report and other appendices included, which included minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 February 2019, be noted.
- (2) T H A T publication of the consultation report on the proposal be approved.
- (3) T H A T the proposal for a regulated alteration to Ysgol Sant Baruc with effect from September 2021 be approved.
- (4) T H A T the publication of the proposal for the regulated alteration in the form of a statutory notice be approved.
- (5) T H A T the major investment towards a new school building set out in the proposal which is subject to the necessary funding being approved by Welsh Government be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that all relevant information is considered by Cabinet in reaching a decision on whether to publish a statutory notice on the proposal.
- (2) To ensure the Local Authority meets the legal requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.
- (3) To ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the increased demand for Welsh medium primary education in Barry.
- (4) To proceed with the proposed regulated alteration to expand the capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places. This would ensure the Local Authority can meet demand for Welsh medium primary education in Barry and that the pupils of Ysgol Sant Baruc are taught in an environment fit for the 21st century.

(5) To ensure Cabinet is aware that the full investment in the school building described in the consultation documents is dependent on Welsh Government funding.

C641 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21 (LC) (SCRUTINY - LEARNING AND CULTURE) -

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal for school admission arrangements for the academic year 2020/21 for admission to Community Schools in accordance with the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

The Council received 304 responses by the closing date of 22 February 2019. Of the 304 individual responses 105 consultees were in support of the proposal, 198 were opposed and 1 did not offer an opinion either way. A summary of the 25 key themes and issues raised during the consultation exercise was included in the consultation report attached at Appendix C.

The Council had a statutory duty to consult on school admission arrangements each year for those schools for which they were the admission authority and to determine their admission arrangements for 2020/21 following completion of the consultation by no later than 15 April 2019.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the report, the consultation report and other appendices included as part of this report be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

(3) T H A T subject to consideration of the above and subject to the consideration by the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee a further report be considered by Cabinet.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that all relevant information is considered by Cabinet in reaching a decision on whether to publish a statutory notice on the proposal.

(2) To consider the views of Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture).

- (3) The Council is required to review school admission arrangements annually and to determine the arrangements for 2020/21.