

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 29th July, 2019.

Present: Councillor N. Moore (Chairman); Councillor L. Burnett (Vice-Chairman); Councillors B.T. Gray, P.G. King, K.F. McCaffer, Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson and E. Williams.

Also Present: Councillors N.P. Hodges and Dr. I.J. Johnson

C51 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor L. Burnett declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 15 - Proposal to Increase the Number of Primary Welsh Medium School Places in Barry. The nature of the interest was the Councillor had a great niece as a pupil in a Welsh medium school. Councillor Burnett did not withdraw for item 15 as she had dispensation to speak. Councillor Burnett also declared an interest in relation to Agenda item 25 - Reshaping Services – Day Time Opportunities for Older People. The nature of the interest was the Councillor had been a close personal friend of a staff member involved. Councillor Burnett withdrew for item 25 as this represented a prejudicial interest and took no part in the consideration of these matters.

Councillor P.G. King declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 10 - Experimental With-Flow Bus Lane Traffic Regulation Order. The nature of the interest was the Councillor had been a member of a motorcycle group and a motorcyclist. Councillor King withdrew from the meeting while the matter was being considered.

C53 WELTAG STAGE TWO M4 TO A48 UPDATE (REF) –

Cabinet considered the reference following the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25th June 2019.

At the Scrutiny meeting on 25th June 2019, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the report which outlined that the report provided an update on progress of the WelTAG Stage Two transport study that was being undertaken on the M4 Junction 34 to A48 transport corridor. The report also identified the further work as part of a WelTAG Stage 2 plus the work undertaken in respect of the following:

1. Environmental surveys and investigations undertaken to further inform the recommendations of the Stage Two report;

2. Further account taken of the consultation responses to update the concept design of the highway link and junction options;
3. Progressed the proposed Parkway Station at the M4 junction 34 to a GRIP2 Feasibility Study process (i.e. Governance for Railway Investment Projects);
4. Made recommendations for the progression to a WelTAG Stage Three (Full Business Case) following completion of the additional studies undertaken as part of the WelTAG Stage Two process and award of Capital Transport Grant funding by Welsh Government.

The Stage Two report options examined against a do-minimum option were as follows (Appendix A of the Cabinet report referred to in detail)

- Option B – a highway route to the east of Pendoylan;
- Option C – a highway route to the west of Pendoylan; and
- Option G – a Parkway Station with Park and Ride facility and bus integration near to M4 Junction 34.

In terms of funding, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the Authority had applied for Stage Three funding requesting an amount of £940k. Welsh Government had allocated a sum of £750k with further funding possibly available in year depending on the outcomes of the studies. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport reminded the Committee that the objective of the Report today was to update Members and that a decision on the final outcomes of the study would be made at a later date.

The Chairman then invited Ms. Abigail Phillips, member of the public, to make her verbal representations to the Committee.

Ms. Phillips stated that she worked in the role as a Town and Countryside planner and she outlined that there had not be a buy-in to the strategic recommendation for a new trunk road. She stated that a new route to Cardiff Airport was not required as the growth and success of the Enterprise Zone was not dependent on a new road. She also stated that the car manufacturing industry was at present very fragile so she questioned how sustainable was the new Aston Martin facility. Ms. Phillips went on to state that the new route would increase congestion at Culverhouse Cross and she asked why had no other options been considered such as improvement to Junction 35 and also Culverhouse Cross. She also queried why public opinion had been ignored and she stated that the Parkway train link was unreliable and was at a very early stage.

The second public speaker was Mr. Paul Waite, who was speaking on behalf of Pendoylan Community Council and he stated that the WelTAG Stage Two study was flawed and consultation with local residents had been ignored. He queried why the Stage Two process did not include the “Do minimum” option as the creation of a new road was against recent Welsh Government policy. Mr. Waite queried the purpose of consultation if other alternative options had been ignored and he asked how could the Council make a decision without all the relevant information. Mr. Waite stated that the world we were living in was changing and he referenced to a rapid drop in car sales alluding to the objectives within the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and a commitment for Wales to be carbon neutral. In

summary, he stated that the consultation exercise had been flawed, that there was no requirement for a new road and the proposals were no longer fit for purpose.

The next public speaker was Miss. Ushenke Rajapakse who was a representative on the Vale's Youth Forum. She wanted to speak from the perspective of a young person whose future would be effected by the "climate emergency" which required urgent changes. She stated that she would be joining the thousands of young people who had spoken out demanding action on climate change. Miss. Rajapakse referred to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act which stated the importance of consultation with young people. She questioned why young people had not been directly consulted on the proposals. She then outlined Welsh and UK Government policy to reduce carbon emissions which would not be met by building new roads. As an alternative, she called for greater investment in public transport, especially as the local bus service was every two hours. This meant that transport links were not good, and so people were being forced to use their cars. She stated that there was an alternative and she urged the Committee to reject the proposals.

The Committee's fourth public speaker was Mrs. Susan Armitage, who began by stating that she worked in the area of risk management for Welsh Government and also the UK Government. She stated that members of the public questioned the need for a new road and also whether sufficient consideration had been given to the viability of alternatives and also the impact on future generations. She referred to the Welsh Government's Climate Emergency that had recently been declared and a need to lower harmful emissions and to reduce traffic congestion. She pleaded with the Committee for a new road not to be their legacy, which went against the need to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. In addition, Mrs. Armitage queried whether a proper Environmental Impact Assessment had been carried out and she questioned as to what problems would be solved by the new route. Further, she asked whether alternative options had been properly considered and whether Members were satisfied with the robustness of the studies undertaken.

In responding to the comments made by the public speakers, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport outlined the following:

- The report in front of Members was not looking for a final decision and Cabinet would be provided with additional environmental information, , at a later stage;
- In terms of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and climate change, she fully understood where the concerns were coming from but it had also been recognised that the road network was not up to "scratch" and did not meet the needs of businesses or locals;
- If the Council took the proposals forward, the objectives were greater than simply improving access to the airport. This she stated was a need of the Cardiff City Capital Region and therefore had been a regional response supported by funding from Welsh Government;
- In terms of further consultation, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that should the Council reach Stage Three, then more consultation would be carried out including further opportunities for local schools in the area to give their views.

The Local Ward Member, as a Member of the Committee, stated that a number of local objections had been raised and he read out an email that he had received from Dr. David Moody Jones, Member for Pendoylan Community Council. The main points from the email being:

- Any new road would have a significant impact on the environment, the risk to which had not been fully addressed;
- Alternative options had failed to be considered;
- There would be a negative impact on bio-diversity and eco-systems;
- The proposals were against Welsh Government targets to reduce dangerous emissions and greenhouse gases and targets around de-carbonisation;
- The impact on air quality;
- The environment impacts needed to be addressed now before progression to the next stage and
- Could the Council afford to spend money on the studies

The Member then highlighted the local concerns regarding the impact on the environment and he stated that things needed to change citing the recent announcement of a “climate emergency”. He added that a new road would be damaging to the environment and so a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment needed to be carried out and he queried why this had not been carried out sooner. The Member then referred to a new road being built in order to serve the Airport and he questioned the establishment of the Enterprise Zone. He also explained that local community groups were upset with the proposals, and so it was important to listen to local concerns. Back in November 2017, the Scrutiny Committee had referred options back to Cabinet which included the “Do Minimum” approach. This, the Member stated, appeared to have disappeared and he queried why the road could not be improved as part of the “Do Minimum” option. He questioned whether there was a need for a new road on the scale and cost that was being proposed that was not value for money and did not address the issues. In closing, the Member stated it was agreed that something had to be done, but an upgrade to the existing road would be better.

In reply to the Member’s comments, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that Environmental Impact Assessments was not part of Stage Two as not all information relating to the options had been gathered. This would be undertaken as part of Stage Three. She stated that she agreed that something had to be done and that the “Do something” approach was considered at Stage One and deemed not appropriate, but this could be reconsidered at any stage. Do-minimum continues to be an option against which all other options are considered against.

A number of Members then aired their initial views and the following comments were made:

- Where was the demand for a new road coming from as it seemed that most local residents were opposed to the idea;
- It was time Welsh Government made up their mind, referring to the 2017 Plan to have a railway spur to improve access to the airport. This had been ongoing for many years and no final decision had been taken;

- Any new road would increase gridlock and the question was raised as to what would happen to all the extra cars on the road and where was the benefit to residents of the Vale of Glamorgan;
- The north access road in Llantwit Major cost millions of pounds despite local objections which were ignored by Welsh Government;
- What were Welsh Government's objectives when it came to reducing traffic congestion and greater consideration should be given to reducing road traffic by improving the railways;
- Concern regarding the impact on the environment and future generations and the need for greater awareness as Welsh Government had issued a "climate emergency" with local objections not being fully addressed;
- Not convinced that a new road was the answer, particularly in the light of local objections and the need to improve sustainability and the impact on the environment;
- A Committee Member queried whether the Committee was convinced that the right solutions were being taken forward and he recommended that a message be sent to Cabinet for further consideration for the existing infrastructure to be upgraded and for any new road to be rejected. In addition, the Committee Chairman should also write a letter to the Welsh Government Minister outlining the Committee's concern for the environment and the impact of new roads.

In replying to some of the comments made, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the demand for a new road had come out of the Cardiff Capital City Deal Region project and had been supported by the Council's Cabinet. In terms of the Rhoose train station and new spur road, she confirmed that nothing had been received from Welsh Government and she had no more information to provide.

In regard to sustainability, she stated that over 10,000 new houses were likely to be built in the Vale of Glamorgan to 2026. This would increase traffic congestion but she agreed that Welsh Government needed to look at the bigger picture.

With regard to climate change, this was set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and would be considered as part of the Stage Two plus process. In addition, she advised that Stage Three would be where the assessment of value would be undertaken and whether the final solution was acceptable.

In relation to the rail network, it had been agreed for this to be separated off from the new road in order that the park and ride was not held up by any road or vice versa.

Subsequently, the Scrutiny Committee recommended

- (1) T H A T Cabinet give consideration to an additional option of improving the existing infrastructure without the need for a new road.
- (2) T H A T an additional report on the Stage Two Plus process should be reported back to the Committee.

(3) T H A T a letter be sent to the Welsh Government Minister in light of the Welsh Government declaration of a climate emergency, requesting the Welsh Government to outline its vision and how the impact on the environment would be minimised.

(4) T H A T Cabinet be requested to consider the impact on future generations and the environment should a new road be approved.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) In order to ask Cabinet to consider an alternative option which includes the upgrade of the existing infrastructure with the removal of an option for a new road.

(2) In order for the Committee to receive information on the Stage Two Plus process.

(3) In order to gather the Welsh Government vision around transport and the impact on the environment.

(4) In order to highlight the concern of the Committee in relation to the environment and the impact on future generations

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the Welsh Government had approved an additional option of improving the existing infrastructure without the need for a new road and this would be included in the Stage Two Plus process. In relation to the impact on future generations and the environment should a new road be approved, this too would be covered in the WeITAG Stage Two transport study.

The Managing Director also stated that any impact on future generations and the environment from updating existing infrastructure or new roads would be further considered as part of the Planning process.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T in relation to recommendation (1) of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting 25th June, it be noted that the Welsh Government has included an additional option of improving the existing infrastructure without the need for a new road on the Stage Two Plus process.

(2) T H A T in relation to recommendation (4) of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting 25th June, it be noted that this will be covered in the Stage Two Plus process.

Reason for decision

- (1) In order to highlight the option of for improving the existing infrastructure is already included in the Welsh Government WelTAG Stage Two transport study.
- (2) In order to highlight that the impact on future generations and the environment should a new road be approved is already in the Welsh Government WelTAG Stage Two transport study

C54 VALE OF GLAMORGAN TOILET STRATEGY (REF) –

Cabinet considered the Vale of Glamorgan Toilet Strategy which had been previously approved in principle and referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 25th June, 2019.

At the Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the Strategy, advising that there was no statutory duty for Local Authorities in Wales to provide public conveniences. As a non-statutory service at a time of austerity there was clearly a risk that Councils could reduce or even discontinue public convenience provision as financial pressures increased. However, any decisions taken on provision of public conveniences must be appropriately considered.

Part 8 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 required Local Authorities to publish a Local Toilet Strategy by 31st May, 2019. Earlier reporting on this issue had not been possible, and the publication deadline had now passed. Officers had however written to Welsh Government to advise of the position.

Members noted that the Strategy must be available and published on the Council's website, and there was no requirement for the Strategy to be presented to Welsh Government for approval.

A breakdown of the costs to provide toilets was tabled at the Committee for Members' consideration. Attached at Appendix A to the report was the draft Toilet Strategy while Appendix B was the report and the consultation exercise which had received 1,040 responses. The main findings from the consultation included information regarding usage of each public toilet, public opinion regarding alternative methods of toilet provision, suggestions of how to improve existing facilities and ideas for cost savings.

Regarding the possibility of charging to use public toilets, 49% of respondents stated that they would be willing to pay. 38% of respondents were willing to pay 10p, 47% 20p, 3% 30p, 10% 50p and 2% £1. The main suggestions from the consultation were to improve existing toilet facilities, improve cleanliness, modernise and improve facilities, and amend or extend opening hours.

Ideas for cost savings associated with the provision of public toilets from the consultation included implementation of charges or voluntary charges, improve efficiency, implementation of a community toilet scheme and rationalisation of the Council's toilets.

The Strategy also recommended that the Council continues to discuss the business potential of sharing facilities and the possibility of sponsorship at key locations such as Barry Island and Penarth sea front. In summary, the Strategy acknowledged that the Council would need to discuss with Town and Community Councils the merits of retaining public toilet provision in certain locations and whether a partnership arrangement was appropriate in ensuring that provision could be retained.

As a Local Ward Member for Llantwit Major, a Committee Member stated that it was important for all Council departments to work together as town centres and tourism relied on good public toilets and he referred to the issues being experienced by Bridgend County Borough Council. He outlined that this was raised with Llantwit Major Town Council over 5 years ago but no further approach had been made. He stated that he hoped that other Town and Community Councils would be approached but it would not be acceptable for the toilets to be paid out of an increase to the precept. In relation funding, he stated that the new housing developments around Llantwit Major would bring in extra Council Tax. In regard to Boverton, he stated that the public toilets were not used much and he asked whether opening times could be changed as 9:15am was too late. With regard to rail/bus interchange in Llantwit Major he stated that the bus shelter needed to be addressed as this represented a risk to public health, and again he asked for the toilet opening and closing times to be looked at in order to meet the town's needs.

In response the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that opening times were covered in part 5 of the Strategy, and discussion on this would be held with Town/Community Councils and also on how they can help manage local toilets.

In relation to the Ward of Baruc in Barry, the Local Ward Member, stated that 8 of the 23 toilets were located in his Ward, which provided a lot of benefit for tourism. He stated that most visitors expected to pay to use toilets, and he queried who would be responsible for closing and opening toilets. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport outlined that in most instances Vale staff would go around locking up facilities. She added that in relation to any charges should they be implemented at a further date, this had to be set at the right level, referring to Tenby as a good example.

The Chairman referred to the closure of public toilets at the Civic Office in Barry, stating that better information should be provided to the public and the language used by reception staff to advise the public needed to be considered. In addition the issue of public access should also be looked into.

The Cabinet Member, with permission to speak stated that problems around public toilets were well known and there was a need to look at charges. He also referred to getting business on board and encouraging them to open up their toilet facilities for the public.

Subsequently, the Scrutiny Committee recommended –

- (1) T H A T Cabinet give further consideration to the possibility of introducing charging for the use of public toilets.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be asked to consider public access to toilets at the Civic Office, and also to look at how Reception staff inform the public that toilets are not currently available.
- (3) T H A T Cabinet give further consideration around how Business' can be involved in assisting the Council to deliver the Strategy
- (4) T H A T an update report be provided to the Committee outlining whether the strategy has been successful.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) In order to ask Cabinet to consider an alternative option which includes the upgrade of the existing infrastructure.
- (2) In order for Cabinet to consider the public access to toilets at the Civic Office and how information on this is relayed.
- (3) To engage with Businesses so that these can assist the Council to deliver its Toilet Strategy.
- (4) To provide the Committee with update on progress.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the Toilet Strategy would go out for consultation and the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation for charging for use of public toilets would be considered in conjunction with the possibility of the Welsh Government removing the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for these facilities as part of this consultation exercise. Also, the recommendation on public access to toilets at the Civic Office had already been implemented by the Council for a trial period, the Leader adding that they would remain open – unless any serious issues were identified.

In relation to businesses helping to deliver the Toilet Strategy, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that although some shops had become involved, it would not be practicable for all businesses to do so and he could not preempt the suggestions from the consultation or future reporting on this matter. The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health had discussed this issue with the 50 Plus Forum who wanted public access to high quality toilets – the key here would be to balance such aspirations with what the Council – in conjunction with local businesses where possible – could achieve.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T in relation to recommendation (1) of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting 25th June the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation for charging for use of public toilets would be considered in conjunction with the possibility of the Welsh Government removing the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for these facilities as part of the consultation exercise.
- (2) T H A T in relation to recommendation (2) of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting 25th June, the Council had already implemented public access to toilets at the Civic Office for a trial period.
- (3) T H A T in relation to recommendation (3) of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting 25th June, the Council would continue to engage with local business in order to assist deliver its Toilet Strategy.
- (4) T H A T an update report be provided to the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee outlining whether the strategy has been successful.

Reason for decision

- (1) In order to consider an alternative option which includes the upgrade of the existing infrastructure.
- (2) In order to provide public access to toilets at the Civic Offices.
- (3) To engage with Businesses in order to assist the Council to deliver its Toilet Strategy.
- (4) To provide Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee with update on progress.

C55 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2018/19 (REF) –

Cabinet had, on 17th June, 2019, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its consideration at its meeting on 27th June, 2019 with a request that any comments be referred back to Cabinet.

The sickness absence report set out the sickness absence figures for the 12 month period 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2019 which was part of the agreed performance management arrangements.

The Operational Manager for Employee Services, in presenting the report, advised that there had been a significant decrease in absence levels during 2018/19 compared with the same period for the previous financial year.

The absence rates were set out in paragraph 4.1 and showed a decrease from 10.14 days lost per FTE or 9.12 days over the period. The target for the year being 9.3 FTE days lost.

It was noted that the decrease in absence was largely due to the improved management of long term sickness cases. There had also been an increase in the level of scrutiny of absence cases which now took place on a monthly basis between the HR Business Partnerships and Occupational Health Teams. Absence had also discussed at Directorate Management Teams as part of their service based action plans.

The detailed absence breakdown in each service area was included at Appendix A to the report.

In considering the report, the following discussion took place:

Question	Officer Response
There appeared to be more stress level issues listed for home rather than work. How is this controlled?	Discussions had been held at the beginning of the process as to how the work and home stress levels should be reported with it subsequently being agreed that whatever the reason that was presented in the first instance, would be the appropriate reason to record.
In noting that stress was associated with all different forms of mental health issues reference was made to how the issue of depression was recorded	Depression was recorded under the Stress Category which were the categories prescribed by Welsh Government.
Could the Committee have the private sector figures as referred to in the CIPD Survey to future meetings?	The Operational Manager agreed to look into the feasibility and email Members accordingly and would arrange for the information to be recorded in future reports.
In referring to "other musculoskeletal" reasons for absence, a Member queried how many could be related to the carrying of green waste bags by the refuse collectors and raised concern as to the increasing number of residents who were overfilling the bags which could have an impact on waste collection. A Member also commented that Welsh Government should be approached to promote awareness of composting to assist / support Local Authorities in relation to absence levels by staff.	The HR officer agreed to discuss the concern with the relevant Department.
In referring to the gender difference between men and women who reported	In response, the Operational Manager stated that historically men did not come

mental health issues, a Member queried what more the Council could do to support men.	forward as much as women but it was something the Department could pursue and promote awareness of.
Paragraph 4.15 referred to Mental Health Champions. Members requested more detail in relation to who they were, whether they were male or female, ages, etc. and could often have a breakdown in the future. It was further suggested that the Council should also encourage a culture where people can confide in others.	The information could be reported if available and the HR officer agreed to undertake the research and report back to Committee.

Having considered the report in detail, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet -

- (1) T H A T a future in-depth report be presented to the Committee in relation to the category "other musculoskeletal" detailing the issues involved and training required.
- (2) T H A T Welsh Government be approached in relation to the promotion of composting.
- (3) T H A T the private sector data in respect of absence levels be presented to Members and included in future reports to Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To apprise Members.
- (2) In order to seek Welsh Government support for its promotion in view of the impact on sickness absence in Waste Collection Services.
- (3) To apprise Members.

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The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources stated there had been a decrease in the number of days lost – close to the target of 9.3 FTE days. A further report with recommendations would be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for their review and assessment. He also caveated the use of private data as this would need to compare 'like for like'.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee 27th June, 2019 be noted.

Reason for decision

In order to note the comments and recommendations from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

C56 HOUSING COMPLIANCE POLICY REVIEW (REF) –

On 17th July, 2019 the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report which had been had referred by Cabinet in order for Appendices A, B, C and D to the report to be considered at the Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 17th July, 2019 and any comments returned to Cabinet.

The Operational Manager – Building Services stated that the review gave a comparison between the three years to now and how far improvements had been made in various areas. He stated that there had been marginal improvement but this was because previous compliance policies and processes provided the appropriate safeguards.

In referring to Appendix A, the Council Housing Fire Risk Management Policy and Procedures, the Operational Manager stated that this had changed very little as performance measures were already compliant with risk assessments. There was reference to the impact of the Grenfell fire and the Operational Manager stated that they were still awaiting improvements in fire safety legislation. He went on to say that whilst working within the current legislation, the Council was going above and beyond this, for example cladding such as was used on Grenfell was not used in the Vale and wall insulation was utilised which prevented the spread of fire plus additional fire breaks.

The Operational Manager then went on to Appendix B, Council Housing Legionella Policy and Management Plan, and stated there had been some changes such as the review of profile risk assessment for housing stock.

The Operational Manager then went on to Appendix C, Housing Electrical Compliance Policy, where he stated that the Council worked to the 18th Edition of the Regulations and whose procedures were similar with that of Gas compliance policy.

Following the Operational Manager – Building Services' presentation of the reference, there was a question and answer session.

A Committee Member referred to page 3 of the report and stated that it was good to see that issues around the Grenfell fire had been taken on board by the Vale of Glamorgan Council for any findings from the Grenfell enquiry and prior to any government legislation. This would be of particular comfort to those residents in high rise buildings within the Vale of Glamorgan.

Another Committee Member raised a question around Legionella and that there was one outstanding site still left in terms of review – this would show the Council was running at 87% and not 100% in terms of sites checked for Legionella. The

Operational Manager – Building Services replied that the site would be completed very shortly as the original statistics had been done two or three months ago and in the meantime remedial works have been done on the site, such as dousing the water tanks.

The Committee Chairman asked about electrical compliance and whether the Scrutiny Committee could have a mid-term or six monthly update by when the Council should be reaching 100% compliance, to which the Operational Manager agreed and stated that the work that had been undertaken was now involving contractors who were working as quickly as possible in order to do this. The Committee also wished to pass on their sincere thanks to all those involved in the work undertaken as mentioned within the report.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Housing Compliance Policy Review be noted.
- (2) T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in the minutes above together with the draft revised Housing Compliance Policies be referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- (3) T H A T the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee receive a six monthly update on the Housing Compliance Policy Review.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) So that Members are aware of the Housing Compliance Policy review.
- (2) So that Cabinet is aware of the comments of the Scrutiny Committee prior to final determination of the Housing Compliance Policy review.
- (3) To ensure Members are kept regularly up to date on the progress surrounding the Housing Compliance Policy review.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations from the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee 17th July, 2019 be noted.

Reason for decision

In order to note the comments and recommendations from the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee.

C57 DRAFT EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY 2019-2024 (REF) –

On 17th July, 2019 the report was presented to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee by the Principal Regeneration Officer, who stated that the report had gone to Cabinet on 15th July, 2019 in order to provide an update on the issue of empty homes in the Vale of Glamorgan and also sought approval of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 (attached at Appendix A to the report) as a consultative document. The five recommendations within the report had been approved by Cabinet.

The Principal Regeneration Officer was at the meeting in order to complete Recommendation (3), namely that the report was referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the consultation process.

The Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 provided the framework to ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council continued to be pro-active in its approach to returning empty homes back into use.

Empty properties could be detrimental to the lives of local residents as they were a magnet for crime and antisocial behaviour, could drive down property values locally and contribute to neighbourhood decline and blight. They also represented a risk for the emergency services and put added pressure on various Council teams and service areas.

The headline annual need for affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan Local Housing Market Assessment from 2017 to 2022 was 576 units per annum. Re-occupying empty homes was not the whole answer to this problem, but Welsh Government and Local Authorities recognised potential, both as units of accommodation and a source of income to the Council in times of continued budgetary pressures.

Long term empty private properties (standing empty for six months or more) were the main focus of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024. As at 1st April, 2019, of the 58,909 residential properties in the Vale of Glamorgan, 846 private properties were standing empty for six months or more. This represented 1.4% of the housing stock. Of the 846 private properties, 311 (36.76%) had been empty for over two years and 47 (5.56%) empty for over ten years.

When dealing with empty property owners, a voluntary way forward was always preferred. Advice, assistance and incentives reduce demand on Council resources and the need for enforcement action at a later date.

The empty homes issue required a joined-up whole Council approach to make the best possible use of the existing housing stock. Moving forward the key aims of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 were to:

- Assemble, maintain and improve the accuracy of empty homes data;

- Provide advice, assistance and financial incentives to reduce the number of long term empty properties;
- Promote the whole Council approach to tackling empty homes;
- Prioritise empty homes for enforcement action; and
- Raise awareness of the empty homes issue.

The Principal Regeneration Officer then provided a presentation that complemented the report looking at the current picture on empty properties in the Vale, a breakdown of distribution of empty homes by Ward, background as to why homes became empty, for example through the normal process of buying, selling and letting properties, absent / untraceable owners or legal issues such as probate of a will and looking at the strategic direction such as from April 2019 the Vale of Glamorgan had removed the 50% discount for Council Tax for properties which were empty for more than six months and the recent new post in place for a permanent Empty Homes and Loans Officer. Other considerations included opportunities to generate income and to secure additional affordable homes, for example through the Vale Assisted Tenancy Scheme. Additionally, the empty homes issue requires bespoke solutions as behind every home there was a different story. Finally, emphasis would be on a voluntary approach and enforcement would be the last resort. The officer went on to then mention the next steps, which would be Cabinet approval - which had already happened - and then for Scrutiny to consider the report.

After this there would be a public consultation for four weeks and then a further Cabinet report to consider findings and any changes prior to finalising for adoption. After that there would be an annual review of the Empty Homes Strategy, which would be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee.

Following the presentation a question and answer session was undertaken.

A Committee Member made reference to prior year performance data (PAM13) concerning empty homes and whether this was available within the report. The Principal Regeneration Officer stated that on page 13 of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 (attached at Appendix A to the report) that previous financial years' data were included, however this had to be caveated as the methodology had changed with the 2015/16 data, for example. The Committee Member, after looking at the figures, commented that they seemed to be erratic for prior years. The officer replied that he could not comment for the data prior to 2017/18 as he was not in post at the time but would look at the accuracy of the data going forward.

Another Committee Member stated that it was good to see the Council working on empty homes as these blighted local communities and involved lots of work in getting resolved. As there was now a dedicated officer for empty homes, this would be an important move forward and a testament to the commitment of the Local Authority in dealing with this issue.

A Committee Member queried the consultation process and exactly who the Council was consulting, was it just the public in general or specific groups such as landlords and estate agents. The officer replied that the consultation would be targeted going to for instance, the landlord forum and the RSLs, but there was also a need to go

and consult with the wider public in order to draw their attention to this issue of empty homes.

A Committee Member asked about Table 2 of the presentation concerning the number of empty homes by Ward. She asked if this could be improved by having percentages of houses in each Ward and a breakdown of private homes and social housing. The Principal Regeneration Officer said that the figures concerned private sector only but would look into the Councillor's suggestions going forward.

A Councillor asked about the accuracy of the figures involved in the presentation and the report to which the officer advised that these were snapshots from the Council Tax team and therefore they had to rely on their records, however he did caveat that the Empty Homes and Loans Officer did cross reference and check this data as much as possible for accuracy. The Head of Housing and Building Services added that the Council was attempting to provide a holistic response to the empty homes issue and that the Councillor's point on the percentage of the total number of homes empty per ward would be useful in terms of reporting. In terms of the reliability of the Council Tax data and the figures around empty homes, he stated that if a house is declared as empty it is visited by Council Tax staff to assess the veracity of that claim. Regarding measuring going forward, different policies and regulations affected previous figures, looking forward to next year they would be looking to see how the current reduction in the Council Tax discount would impact those figures. With regard to previous rises in the numbers of empty homes, there was no Empty Homes and Loans Officer in order to analyse or monitor the data at the time of these and any such rise may have been with regards to new building projects such as at Barry Waterfront, where houses were empty for some time. The Principal Regeneration Officer advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council was ranked third for 2017/18 in terms of the relevant Public Accountability Measure (PAM 13) for empty homes.

A Member mentioned an example of Cardiff Council which had charged a % premium of the standard rate of the Council Tax allowance for empty homes. A Committee Member suggested that the Scrutiny Committee should have an update on the progress of the recent changes to Council Tax policy in the Vale of Glamorgan and also to look at similar Authorities and how they dealt with empty homes, such as Bridgend and Cardiff.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, with the approval of the Chairman, spoke to the Committee with regards to the Empty Homes Strategy. She stated that she had been surprised by the numbers of empty homes in the Vale and wanted the consultation exercise to also see if the balance between gentle persuasion and enforcement was correct with regards to empty homes. The Cabinet Member mentioned similar previous initiatives such as the funding that had been provided for bringing flats above shops back into use and habitation. She stated that the Empty Homes Strategy report was very accessible and this hopefully would have the effect of encouraging people to look at the empty homes issue. Her question to the Committee was whether the Council had the right balance between gentle persuasion and enforcement with regards to empty homes or did the Council need to engage more forcefully.

A Committee Member suggested that the question of whether the right balance was struck between gentle persuasion and enforcement in terms of empty homes was correct and this should be put to the public as part of the consultation process.

A Committee Member asked if the Council could assist if there were home owners that needed to renovate empty homes as potentially they needed up to 80% equity in the house in order to do this. The Principal Regeneration Officer reiterated the need for bespoke solutions to the empty housing issue and to look at how valuation work was assessed in terms of making empty homes habitable.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in the minutes above together with the draft of the Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024 be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.
- (3) T H A T Cabinet consider the Committee's recommendation that a question be put into the public consultation exercise asking if the right balance had been struck between persuasion and enforcement for empty homes.
- (4) T H A T the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee receive an update on the progress of the recent changes to Council Tax policy in the Vale of Glamorgan and how similar Authorities dealt with empty homes.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) That Members are aware of the Draft Empty Homes Strategy 2019-2024.
- (2) That Cabinet is aware of the comments of the Scrutiny Committee prior to the start of the public consultation exercise.
- (3) To ensure the right balance was struck between persuasion and enforcement around empty homes.
- (4) To ensure Members are updated on the recent changes to Council Tax policy and how similar Authorities dealt with empty homes."

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration referred to her attendance at the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee where she had asked the question as to whether the Council was too lenient around the issue of empty homes and if it needed to take off the 'kid gloves', to which the Committee had suggested this question going out as part of the consultation exercise. She also reiterated the Committee's interest in finding out how other Councils dealt with this issue.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services stated there was an urgent need to get empty properties back into use, to which the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration added that the Empty Homes Strategy and public consultation exercise could only improve the situation.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T a question be added to the public consultation exercise asking if the right balance had been struck between persuasion and enforcement for empty homes.
- (2) T H A T the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee receives an update on the progress of the recent changes to Council Tax policy in the Vale of Glamorgan and how similar Authorities dealt with empty homes.

Reason for decision

- (1) To ensure the right balance was struck between persuasion and enforcement around empty homes.
- (2) To ensure Members are updated on the recent changes to Council Tax policy and how similar Authorities dealt with empty homes.

C58 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE WORKING INITIATIVES UPDATE (L / PR) (CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

Collaborative working activity had increased at pace in response to the challenging financial climate and in recognition of the value that working in partnership to share skills, expertise and experience can 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 to the report) 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.

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 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.

C59 EXPERIMENTAL WITH-FLOW BUS LANE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (L / PR) (ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Council had been successful in a bid application to the Welsh Government for Local Transport Funding to implement bus priority measures, in the form of bus lanes and bus gates (incorporated into the traffic signals at Brooklands Retail Park), together with improvements to existing bus stops along Route A4050, Port Road (part) from Barry to Culverhouse Cross. This work was completed in March 2017.

The Council had previously implemented bus priority measures along the A4055, Cardiff Road to provide advantage for buses travelling towards Cardiff over other vehicles queuing on the approach to the Merrie Harrier signal junction during peak periods. This was opened in September 2010.

It was envisaged that during the concept and feasibility stages, the bus lanes would only be used by buses, with an exemption for taxis and this would be introduced by way of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). None of the Council's bus lanes were therefore currently signed to permit the use of Motorcycles.

Representations had been made to the Council by motorcyclists and motorcycling groups access to the bus lanes, which was common practice in the other Local Authority areas.

There was some concern that the narrow bus lanes had substandard widths to safely allow motorcycles and mopeds to use them. As a consequence, appropriate safety

assessments needed to be undertaken before a decision could be taken to permit motorcycles to use these lanes on a permanent basis as recommended by the DfT Local Transport Note 02/07 - "Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles".

In the absence of such an assessment, the Council proposed the introduction an experimental TRO to evaluate the consequences and effects of allowing Motorcycles into the bus lanes. During the first 12 months of the experiment, the public would be able to express their opinions and views, following which the Council would make a decision as to whether to make the Order permanent.

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 making of the Experimental With-Flow Bus Lane Traffic Regulation Order along the A4050, Port Road (part) and A4055 Cardiff Road (part) as described in the report be approved.

(2) T H A T a further report on the success or otherwise of the Experimental With-Flow Bus Lane Traffic Regulation Order after 12 months be provided to Cabinet.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

(2) To update Cabinet on the outcome of Experimental With-Flow Bus Lane Traffic Regulation Order after 12 months so that an appropriate permanent Order can be made.

**C60 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2022 (L / PR)
(CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) had been produced in consultation with officers from across the Council's departments. It set out the strategy and methodology for managing the Council's land and property assets.

The new Corporate Asset Management Plan replaced the previous CAMP (2015-2018) and reflected the need to ensure a co-ordinated approach to asset management together with greater collaboration and the efficient, effective and sustainable use of land and buildings in line with the Council's obligations pursuant to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

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 new Corporate Asset Management Plan 2019-2022 as contained in Appendix A to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

To satisfy the integrated planning action of the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 to produce a Corporate Asset Management Plan every three years.

**C61 AGENCY CONTRACT VIA THE NPS FRAMEWORK (L / PR)
(CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Council had operated the current Agency Worker Contract via the National Procurement Services (NPS) Framework since January 2014. The current framework had been in operation since April 2015 with the provider Randstad. Following an exercise by the NPS, a number of options were presented that would enable the Council to review the costs of supplying agency workers and enter into a Direct Award Contract.

The current contract expired on 30th April, 2019, however, Welsh Authorities had until 31st October, 2019 to move to a new contract. Information from the NPS was not finalised until the end of May 2019, and following a review of the various agency providers, the Council was in a position to proceed with a Direct Award subject to Cabinet approval.

The Framework was compliant with EU procurement regulations, so there was no need for the Council to run a full EU tender.

A direct award may be made where it was possible to establish the most economically advantageous offer on the basis of the terms laid down in the Framework Agreement, and where all services required, and proposed contract terms were included in the Framework Agreement and Specification. This work had been completed.

Cabinet was asked to review the information in both Part I and Part II reports in order to approve the appointment.

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 report be noted and considered in connection with the Part II report later in the agenda.

Reason for decision

To allow the Part I and II reports to be considered together and to permit the execution of formal contracts between the Council and the Agency provider. The contract would run until 30th April, 2022 with an option to extend for 12 months.

C62 END OF YEAR 2018/19 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (L / PR) (ALL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES) –

The performance report presented the Council's progress at Quarter 4 (1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2019) towards achieving its Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities for Year 3 of the Corporate Plan 2016-20. It also outlined progress against existing regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals in response to local and national audit work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office.

Overall, the Council had made good progress in delivering the key outcomes as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20, which had contributed to an overall Green performance status at end of year.

Two Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes were attributed an overall RAG status of Green and two were attributed an overall RAG status of Amber. An overall Green status had been attributed to Corporate Health reflecting the positive progress made to date in integrating the Council's business planning practices and in promoting a 'one Council' approach to maximising limited resources to deliver the Council's Well-being Outcomes. These developments had contributed to the Council's achievements at end of year 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 four Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and the Council's Corporate Health priorities and proposed remedial actions to bring performance back on track during 2019/20 where appropriate.

During 2018/19, 92% (370 out of 404) of planned activities aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities had been attributed a Green performance status reflecting the good progress made during the year. 8% (34) of planned actions had been attributed a Red status. There was a need to progress a number of key projects and these were detailed in the appended performance report attached as Appendix A to the report.

Of the 181 performance measures aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, a performance status was applicable at end of year for 121 PIs. 73 (60 %) PIs were attributed a Green performance status, 31 (26%) Amber status and the remaining 17 (14%), a Red status. A performance status was not applicable for 60 measures. These related to measures which were either establishing baseline performance in 2018/19 (and consequently no target was set) or were national well-being indicators for which Welsh Government data was not yet available. A small number of

measures were also reliant on data from the closure of accounts process which was not yet available at the time of writing the report. In addition, data could not be provided for a number of Social Services measures due to the ongoing work to cleanse data following adoption of the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS), which was anticipated would take time to achieve.

As at April 2019, of the 28 regulatory report actions contained within the Council's Insight Tracker, 19 had been completed and 9 remained ongoing. Of the 9 ongoing actions, 6 had been attributed an Amber performance status and the remaining 3 a Red status. Progress continued to be reviewed monthly via the Insight Board to ensure that existing proposals / recommendations were appropriately progressed, the results reported to Members, thus enabling completed actions to be closed down in a timely manner.

All Scrutiny Committees reviewed end of year performance reports and progress against the Council's regulatory recommendations / improvement proposals between 15th and 24th July, 2019. Upon consideration, three Scrutiny Committees (Healthy Living and Social Care, Homes and Safe Communities and Learning and Culture), had noted the end of year performance results and progress to date against relevant regulatory recommendations/improvement proposals in relation to their respective Well-being Outcome areas. Cabinet was recommended (by all three Scrutiny Committees) to endorse the removal of completed actions from the Council's Insight Tracker. Due to the timing of the meetings, the views of the remaining two Scrutiny Committees (Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Performance and Resources) were being tabled at the Cabinet meeting for Members' consideration.

The report sought Cabinet's consideration of the views and recommendations of Scrutiny Committees in relation to Q4 performance and the reported progress against the regulatory recommendations/proposals for improvement relevant to their respective Scrutiny Committees, in order to enable completed actions to be closed down. Upon consideration, Cabinet was being asked to endorse the removal of completed actions from the Insight Tracker. Thereafter, overall progress along with Cabinet's decision will be reported to the Audit Committee whose key role was to have final oversight of the Council's response to issues raised by our external regulators.

Informed by the views and recommendations from Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet was requested to review overall service performance results for the period 2018/19 and the progress made towards achieving the Council's Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20, and the Council's overall progress in respect of addressing its existing regulatory recommendations and improvement.

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 Quarter 4 performance results and progress made towards achieving the Council's Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 and its overall progress in respect of addressing existing regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals be noted.
- (2) T H A T views and recommendations of all Scrutiny Committees in relation to Quarter 4 performance results and the reported progress against the regulatory recommendations / proposals for improvement relevant to their respective Scrutiny Committees, in order to enable completed actions to be closed down be noted.
- (3) T H A T the removal of completed regulatory actions from the Council's Insight Tracker and refers its decision to the Audit Committee for final oversight be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure the Council is 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 2015 that it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.
- (2) To ensure the Council implements its regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals and responds appropriately to the recommendations and proposals for improvement identified through the Wales Audit Office's programme of local and national Local Government Studies.
- (3) To ensure the Audit Committee has as an up to date overview and final oversight of progress made by the Council in implementing its regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals in response to external regulatory opinions.

C63 WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL - ACCEPTANCE OF STAGE TWO TENDER (ER) (LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration presented the report which outlined that on 15th October, 2018 Cabinet approved the appointment of Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd to undertake the new build works at Whitmore High School following a competitive two-stage tender exercise utilising the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) contractor framework.

A Professional Services Contract was executed for design and procurement services, as well as initial site surveys. The design had now been finalised and would be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 31st July, 2019.

Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure had now submitted their final cost plan to undertake the full new build works.

A Project Bank Account would be established by the Contractor in accordance with Welsh Government funding requirements.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration referred to paragraph 3.5 of the report, highlighting that previously completed Band A projects had contributed to improving the economic and environmental wellbeing of Wales – for example, over 70% of project spend has been within Wales and a minimum of 80% of waste had been averted from landfill and recycled.

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 report be noted and considered in conjunction with the Part II report later in the agenda.

Reason for decision

To allow the Part I and II reports to be considered together.

C64 PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY WELSH MEDIUM SCHOOL PLACES IN BARRY (ER) (LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the objection period following the publication of the Statutory Notice 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')).

No statutory objections were received during the objection period.

Reference was also made to paragraph 2.4 of the report which summarised the issues raised by respondents concerning the proposal and how these had been subsequently dealt with during the objection period.

The report recommended that Cabinet approves the implementation of the proposal from September 2021.

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 implementation of the proposal to make a regulated alteration under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code 2018 to increase Welsh medium primary provision in Barry to meet future demand by increasing the capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021 be approved.
- (2) T H A T the transfer of staff and pupils from the existing site to the new school building developed at Barry Waterfront for September 2021 be approved.
- (3) T H A T the use of Article 14.14.2 (ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of Resolutions (1) and (2) above.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To approve implementation of the proposed regulated alteration to expand the capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places. This would ensure the Local Authority could meet demand for Welsh medium primary education in Barry and that the pupils of Ysgol Sant Baruc were taught in an environment fit for the 21st century.
- (2) To provide a school building that was able to accommodate the increased capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc from September 2021. The new build had been included as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme.
- (3) In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, determination on the proposal must be made within 16 weeks of the end of the objection period, that was by 15th September, 2019.

C65 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION, TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT, THEMATIC GRANTS PROGRAMME 2019/20-2020/21 (ER) (ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The report sought to update Cabinet on the Cardiff Capital Region, Thematic Grants Programme for urban centres in South East Wales and also sought approval to deliver a grant scheme in Barry Town Centre as part of the Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme.

Rhondda Cynon Taff (as Lead Authority) submitted a joint application to Welsh Government for TRI funding in November 2018 targeting key town / urban centres in all ten Local Authority areas of the Cardiff Capital Region.

In March 2019 the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services, approved the application.

The Council's total allocation of TRI funding (referred to in paragraph 4.2 of the report) was £970,000 (profiled £161,684 for 2019/20 and £808,316 for 2020/21).

Barry Town Centre (and Holton Road in particular – refer to Appendix A of the report) had been selected as a key target zone for the Thematic Grants Programme. Should there be residual resources the Council would canvass other property owners in High Street / Broad Street District Centre (refer to Appendix B of the report) to establish a second wave of targeted properties.

Eligible Applicants included Freeholders, Leaseholder (with a minimum seven year lease remaining on the property), Sole Traders, Partnerships, Limited Companies, Community Businesses, Co-operatives and Registered Social Landlords.

A draft Service Level Agreement had been prepared by Rhondda Cynon Taff (refer to Appendix C to the report) reflecting the need to have a collaborative and consistent regional approach whilst allowing a degree of flexibility for particular local needs in order to achieve maximum impact. It was recommended that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to undertake all necessary actions to agree the terms and enter into the Service Level Agreement.

Recommendations (1)-(4) (inclusive) would enable the effective governance and administration of the Thematic Grants Programme in Barry Town Centre and facilitate future investment and development opportunities.

In a financial climate that was and would continue to be tough, it was considered prudent (Recommendation (5)) to defer the current use of the unallocated budget (referred to in paragraph 2.4 of the report) and for the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration and Head of Regeneration and Planning, to be given delegated authority to approve the use of the unallocated budget for the year 2019/20 as appropriate.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration referred to paragraph 2.5 of the report – regarding ward member consultation – and agreed with the comments made by a ward member on feedback on progress and light touch involvement of local members within the decision making process.

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 delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education

and Regeneration, the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to:

- undertake all necessary actions to agree the terms of a Service Level Agreement regarding the Targeted Regeneration Investment, Thematic Grants Programme for South East Wales for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21;
- agree the terms, conditions, guidance notes and application forms for grants in Barry Town Centre as identified in Appendix A and Appendix B, as attached to the report;
- approve grants in Barry Town Centre as identified in Appendix A and Appendix B, as attached to the report; and,
- negotiate terms and conditions for the appointment of third-party suppliers/ providers where required.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation with third party grant applicants.

(3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in conjunction with the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer, be authorised to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable third-party suppliers / providers to be appointed where required.

(4) T H A T changes to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Capital Programme as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report be approved.

(5) T H A T the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration and Head of Regeneration and Planning, be given delegated authority to approve the use of the budget as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report as appropriate.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow the Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement regarding the Targeted Regeneration Investment, Thematic Grants Programme, agree the terms, conditions, guidance notes and application forms for grants in Barry Town Centre, and to approve grants and negotiate terms and conditions for the appointment of third-party suppliers / providers where required.

(2) To prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation with third party grant applicants.

(3) To prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable third-party suppliers / providers to be appointed where required.

(4) To include the Targeted Regeneration Investment, Thematic Grants Programme budget allocation for the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Capital Programme.

(5) To align investment with priority actions and initiatives to enable the capital allocation to be managed effectively.

**C66 COWBRIDGE LIVESTOCK MARKET REGENERATION (ER)
(CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

At its meeting of 23rd October, 2017 Cabinet approved (by way of Cabinet Minute C114 – refer to Appendix 1) a regeneration vision for land at Cowbridge Livestock Market. This new report to Cabinet updated the regeneration vision as it:

- a) outlined the positive progress of an ongoing works contract let by Cowbridge Charter Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) involving the demolition and clearance of redundant cattle pens to expose and enhance the setting of the historic Town Wall, which was being repaired as part of the Trust's project;
- b) recommended a new proposal for the Council to facilitate on land at Cowbridge Livestock Market (including the Main Site and land alongside the Town Wall indicatively edged red in Appendix 2 to the report) a public car park and associated environmental enhancements including a temporary events space ("the public car park project"), subject to the availability of funding, viability, statutory consents and community consultation. This proposal superseded Cabinet Minute C114(2), which had proposed the Main Site be marketed and disposed for redevelopment for other land uses along with providing some public car parking;
- c) advised Cabinet that in accordance with Cabinet Minute C114(7) the Licence for Glamorgan Marts would not be extended beyond the end of March 2020; and
- d) updated Cabinet on the status of the Exchange project proposed by the Vale Market Community Enterprise.

The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources pointed out that market operators have been given one year extensions and so it was important that the regeneration kept going forward – and the plan was a sensible means of this being achieved.

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 Head of Regeneration and Planning be authorised (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and the Head of Finance) to facilitate on land at Cowbridge Livestock Market (including the Main Site and land alongside the Town

Wall indicatively edged red on the plan in Appendix 2 to the report) a public car park and associated environmental enhancements including a temporary events space ("the public car park project") subject to viability, the availability of funding and statutory consents.

(2) T H A T landscape / urban design, Quantity Surveyor and engineering consultants (and any other consultants as may be required) be appointed to assist with the survey, feasibility, master planned design and delivery of the public car park project.

(3) T H A T a budget of £65,000 be approved for 2019/20 and the Capital Programme amended accordingly to fund and implement site surveys, feasibility work, master plan design, cost estimation for the proposed public car park project and project management.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director, Head of Regeneration and Planning and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration to approve the capital budget for the future detailed design, securing statutory consents and letting a works contract to construct the public car park project following the completion of surveys, feasibility and the costed master planned design of the public car park project.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director, Head of Regeneration and Planning and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration to approve the tendering and letting of a works contract for the public car park project.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To obtain authority from Cabinet to facilitate a public car park project on land at Cowbridge Livestock Market subject to viability, the availability of funding and statutory consents.

(2) To obtain authority from Cabinet to appoint consultants as may be required to assist with the survey, feasibility, master planned design and delivery of the public car park project.

(3) To obtain authority from Cabinet for a capital budget to fund and implement site surveys, feasibility work, master plan design, cost estimation for the proposed public car park project and its project management.

(4) To obtain authority to approve the capital budget for the future detailed design, securing statutory consents and letting of a works contract to construct the public car park project following completion of surveys, feasibility and costed master planned design of the final scheme.

(5) To obtain authority to approve the tendering and letting of a works contract for the public car park project.

**C67 VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2026:
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
GUIDANCE ON CARDIFF AIRPORT AND GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT ZONE
(LRPS) (ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services outlined the report, which he advised was timely, given the increased public awareness of developments around Cardiff Airport recently. He referred to new draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which had been prepared to provide guidance and advice in relation to Cardiff Airport and the adjoining strategic employment site. It also referred to the proposed extension to Porthkerry Country Park which lay adjacent to the southern part of the site.

The draft SPG set out the purpose and status of the document, the legislative and planning policy context, the development framework (visions, objectives and development areas) and relevant planning considerations including design and visual impact, phasing, noise, drainage / flooding and renewable energy. It also identified likely Section 106 planning obligations in relation to sustainable transport, travel plans, public open space (including the Porthkerry Country Park extension), training and development and public art. The appendices to the report contained a number of relevant plans such as a contour map, sustainable transport map and an illustrative masterplan.

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement of the draft SPG for public consultation purposes. All comments received and any proposed amendments to the draft SPG would be reported back to Cabinet for consideration prior to formally adopting it for development management purposes in due course.

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 draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) attached to the report, with delegated powers to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services to make typographical or other minor changes as necessary prior to publication, for public consultation purposes be approved.

(2) T H A T a further report be presented to Cabinet following the public consultation to present the findings of the public consultation exercise and consider any changes to the draft SPG prior to the formal adoption of the SPG for development management purposes.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable public consultation on the draft SPG in accordance with the Council's protocol for the production of SPGs and to afford the SPG additional weight as a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications and appeals.
- (2) To advise Members of the responses to the public consultation exercise and to seek Members' approval for the formal adoption of the SPG as a material consideration in development management decisions.

C68 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS (LRPS) (CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Council had to designate a polling place for each polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of a polling district are such that the situation of the polling place did not materially affect the convenience of the electors. The Council also had to seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area had such reasonable facilities for voting as were practicable in the circumstances unless there were special circumstances.

Aligned to the above was a statutory duty for a Local Authority to review the polling districts, places and stations within its parliamentary constituency and Local Authority area every five years.

The report detailed the programme for the review at Appendix 1 and proposals for consultation at Appendix 2.

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 Review Programme set out at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Electoral Registration Officer's proposals set out at Appendix 2 of the report, as the consultation document for the Polling District, Place and Station Review for the Vale of Glamorgan Council area and parliamentary constituency, be agreed.
- (3) T H A T a further report be submitted to Cabinet in November 2019, on the outcome of the consultation and submitting final proposals for consideration.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) In line with the Council's statutory obligations under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

C69 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES (HSB) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Housing Development Strategy 2019-24 set out the Council's vision and objectives for the delivery of new-build Council homes and the approach the Council would take to ensure new Council homes contributed to successful communities and growth in the local economy, whilst maintaining the financial health of the Housing Business Plan.

The Housing Development Policy supported the Housing Development Strategy and provided a clear statement on how the Council intended to successfully realise the Strategy's four objectives.

To provide operational and project management due diligence to the above, the Housing Development Procedures had been developed to ensure the successful delivery of the Council's development programme, whilst demonstrating strong value for money and risk management principles.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services advised this was a very interesting and useful report about an issue that had a big impact on Vale residents' lives.

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 details of the inaugural Housing Development Strategy 2019-24 and its attendant Housing Development Policy and the operational content of the Housing Development Procedures be noted.

(2) T H A T the Strategy and all supporting documentation be referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

(3) T H A T the Strategy, supporting documents and the views of the Scrutiny Committee be considered by Cabinet prior to the final Strategy being agreed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To note the proposed the strategic direction that would support the successful delivery of the Council's new build development programme, which aligns with the aims and objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan, the Council's Well Being Plan, the Council's Local Housing Strategy and the Council's Housing Asset Management Strategy.
- (2) To ensure appropriate Scrutiny of these important documents.
- (3) To allow Cabinet to make a fully informed decision on the final Strategy.

C70 DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM TENDER FOR PASSENGER TRANSPORT OPERATORS (NST) (ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The report provided Cabinet with information on the new tendering process that had been undertaken by the Passenger Transport Team.

The Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) that had been introduced was an ongoing framework of suppliers that had the ability to add new suppliers throughout its life.

Suppliers needed to achieve a score of 70% or above on a Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) in order to be admitted to the DPS.

Mini competitions requesting prices from those operators who were assigned to the DPS for passenger transport services could take place during the lifetime of the agreement.

The whole process had to be fully electronic and would be conducted on the Sell2Wales portal which was fully auditable.

As and when services were tendered via the Sell2Wales portal, the Director of Environment and Housing and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport would use their delegated powers to award contracts for these services to the most economically advantageous price, or the next most competitive if there were issues with awarding to the first, for the life of the DPS.

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 process for the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Passenger Transport Services be noted.

- (2) T H A T the Passenger Transport Service Specification document and the Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (DPS) that suppliers had to complete be noted.
- (3) T H A T the list of Passenger Transport suppliers who had gained access to the DPS during the first round of tendering be noted.
- (4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to award contracts to suppliers on the DPS who provided the most competitive price for services, taking into account previous performance on services, during the life of the DPS.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To advise Cabinet of the new style of tendering that the Passenger Transport team has undertaken.
- (2) To advise Cabinet on the service levels and quality that is expected from Passenger Transport suppliers who wish to gain access to the DPS.
- (3) To advise Cabinet of those suppliers who have gained access to the DPS having supplied information on their quality and achieved the required 70% score.
- (4) To ensure Passenger Transport services can be tendered via mini-competitions and contracts can be awarded to successful bidders, as and when required.

C71 AWARD OF WELSH GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT GRANTS FOR THE 2019/2020 (NST) (ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The report provided Cabinet with information on the grants that the Council had been successful in obtaining from Welsh Government for a variety of transport schemes in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The report listed the schemes and studies that would be undertaken with the funding provided and those that had not been successful in gaining funding.

The report recommended that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport and Director of Environment and Housing Services be granted delegated powers to authorise any spend of these grants, which would be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport wanted to add that this was very much a good news story and thanked officers for their work on the grant.

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 schemes that had been granted funding for the 2019/20 financial year be noted and agreed.

(2) T H A T the requirement for the grant to be accepted by the deadline of 30th May 2019 in order for the award not to be withdrawn be noted.

(3) T H A T delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport to allocate the funding as necessary to undertake the work on these schemes and studies.

(4) T H A T the Capital funding of £1,845,027 for inclusion in the 2019/20 Neighbourhood Services and Transport Capital Programme be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To advise Cabinet of the schemes, procedures and terms and conditions of the grant funding (Appendix A to the report).

(2) To ensure the grant was accepted and money made available to the Council in order for the schemes to progress as early as possible.

(3) To ensure the necessary work on these schemes can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

(4) To comply with the Council's financial controls and ensure the grants can be monitored in line with all other Capital expenditure.

C72 IMPROVE ACCESS TO DOMICILIARY CARE CAPACITY WITHIN THE WESTERN VALE LOCALITY (SCH) (HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

There are on-going issues regarding capacity within the Western Vale to provide domiciliary care in a timely manner. This provides support with discharge from or prevent of admission to hospital and enables people to live independently within their own homes and community. As a result, discharges from hospital are currently taking longer due to limited domiciliary care capacity.

The report outlined the basis for the Intermediate Care Fund grant that had been awarded in order improve capacity for domiciliary care provision in the Western Vale.

This would enable access to services to support people within their own homes to live independently and build community resilience in a rural area which was proving difficult to provide services to currently.

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 Director of Social Services and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to:

- Commence tendering procedures for the services outline in this report; and
- Accept and award tender for this service in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders;
- Authorise the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to execute the Contract.

Reason for decision

(1) To ensure that the Council:

- Provides care and support services in a cost effective way and meets the assessed needs of Service Users;
- Meets the requirements of its Financial Regulation and Contract Standing Orders;
- To provide authority for the relevant Contract to be executed.

**C73 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT : 2018/19 (SCH)
(ALL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES) –**

There was corporate responsibility to ensure that there were effective arrangements in place for safeguarding children and adults who required specific Council services.

The Annual Report provided an overview of the Corporate Safeguarding Group work plan and other safeguarding activities taking place across the Local Authority.

Historically, safeguarding activity by different parts of the Council had been reported separately to Cabinet, relevant Scrutiny Committees and Corporate Management Team. The annual report brought together safeguarding activity undertaken by the Social Services, Learning and Skills, Managing Directors Office and Resources, Environment and Housing Directorates and also an overview from Corporate Safeguarding Group. This provided a more holistic representation of safeguarding activity across the Council. The report provided a composite update of activity across the directorates. Scrutiny Committees would need to consider the elements of the report in line with their portfolio areas.

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 work that had been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet continue to receive six monthly reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the effectiveness of relevant Policies.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the Audit Committee and the Environment and Regeneration, Healthy Living and Social Care, Learning and Culture, Home and Safe Communities and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of recent developments in corporate arrangements for safeguarding.
- (2) To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of this key area of corporate working.
- (3) To respond to requests that each Scrutiny Committee be provided with update reports and to ensure that Audit Committee receive the Wales Audit Office report and the Corporate Safeguarding Group's work plan.

C74 RESHAPING SERVICES – DAY TIME OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE (SCH) (HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Day Service provision for older people in the Vale of Glamorgan had been identified as one of the Council's Reshaping Services Projects and a target of £50,000 was included in the Council's revenue budget savings proposals for 2019/20.

Adult Services currently supported three day centres for older people assessed by the department as eligible for the service; all of which provided a midday meal, a range of social activities and transport to and from the centre.

- Rondel House (Barry) was operated by Adult Services, providing a 5 day per week service for up to 25 older people and people living with dementia in mid and eastern Vale;
- St. Johns (Barry Island) was operated by Carers Trust, providing a 6 day per week extended hours service for up to 14 older people with dementia in mid and eastern Vale.

- Western Vale (Gathering Place, St. Athan) was operated by Hafod, providing a 5 day per week service for up to 10 older people living and people living with dementia in the Western Vale.

In addition to the day centres, there was a range of over 35 separate community groups throughout the county that provided social opportunities for citizens covering a range of interests and activities, including lunch clubs, sports clubs, craft clubs and social clubs.

A Project Group had been set up to explore the best way to maintain a quality service while making the efficiency savings.

The project group would develop and consult upon a model of day-time opportunities for older people and people living with dementia.

Following a comprehensive consultation exercise with current service users of the day centres, staff employed in the day centres and wider stakeholders, the project group would develop a Day Opportunities Strategy to inform the future day time opportunities for older people and people living with dementia in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health advised that options C, E and F on Appendix 1 of the report favoured an enhanced service at Rondel House and were recommended for further consideration.

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 content of the report and progress of improvement works undertaken within Phase 1 of the project be noted.
- (2) T H A T permission to consult on the proposed options contained within Phases 2 and 3 of the project plan for the rationalisation of the day centres alongside the development and promotion of social opportunities throughout the Vale be granted.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process.
- (4) T H A T following the results of the Consultation Review, a further report be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform Cabinet of the improvements made to Day Services provision in the Western Vale.

- (2) To allow co-produced development of the proposals for the improvement of day-time opportunities for older people and people living with dementia in the Vale of Glamorgan and ensure the impact of the proposals is understood.
- (3) To ensure Elected Member oversight of the consultation and engagement with service users.
- (4) To allow Cabinet to consider the findings of the Consultation Review.

C75 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

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

C76 AGENCY CONTRACT VIA THE NPS FRAMEWORK (L / PR) (CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPH 14) –

The Council had operated the current Agency Worker Contract via the National Procurement Services (NPS) Framework since January 2014. The current framework had been in operation since April 2015 with the provider Randstad. Following an exercise by the NPS, a number of options were presented that would enable the Council to review the costs of supplying agency workers and enter into a Direct Award Contract.

The current contract expired on 30th April, 2019, however, Welsh Authorities had until 31st October, 2019 to move to a new contract. Information from the NPS was not finalised until the end of May 2019, and following a review of the various agency providers, the Council was in a position to proceed with a Direct Award subject to Cabinet approval.

The Framework was compliant with EU procurement regulations, so there was no need for the Council to run a full EU tender.

A direct award may be made where it was possible to establish the most economically advantageous offer on the basis of the terms laid down in the Framework Agreement, and where all services required, and proposed contract terms are included in the Framework Agreement and Specification. This work had been completed.

Cabinet was asked to review the information in both Part II and Part II reports in order to approve the appointment.

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 delegated authority be granted to the Managing Director to direct award the Matrix-SCM as the Vendor Neutral supplier for the engagement of temporary agency workers across the Council.

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

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders (which require contracts with a value in excess of £300k to be agreed by Cabinet.

(2) To enable the contract documentation to be finalised with the successful contractor.

C77 WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL - ACCEPTANCE OF STAGE TWO TENDER (ER) (LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPH 14) –

On 15th October, 2018 Cabinet approved the appointment of Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd to undertake the new build works at Whitmore High School following a competitive two-stage tender exercise utilising the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) contractor framework.

A Professional Services Contract was executed for design and procurement services, as well as initial site surveys. The design had now been finalised and would be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 31st July, 2019.

Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd had now submitted their final cost plan to undertake the full new build works. 94% of the project cost had been market tested in line with the Council's requirements and the final overall cost was within the Council's allocated funding of £30,500,000.

It was recommended that the stage two tender be accepted from Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd and an NEC3 Option A Contract executed.

A Project Bank Account would be established by the Contractor in accordance with Welsh Government funding requirements.

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 appointment of Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd for the new build works at Whitmore High School be approved.
- (2) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to execute the NEC3 Option A (Lump Sum with Activity Schedule) Contract with Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd.
- (3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to execute a Trust Deed with the Contractor to establish a Project Bank Account.
- (4) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to execute the relevant Deeds of Adherence to ensure the relevant sub-contractors are included within the Project Bank Account.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure the required works are completed for the delivery of the new build at Whitmore High School as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme.
- (2) To permit execution of formal contracts between the Council and Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd.
- (3) To ensure a Project Bank Account is established in line with Welsh Government funding requirements.
- (4) To ensure sub-contractors are able to join the project bank account throughout the project.