

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 9th September, 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.

C78 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

C80 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 4 UPDATE (REF) –

Cabinet considered the reference following the Audit Committee meeting held on 1st July, 2019.

The Leader advised that the purpose of the appended report was to update Audit Committee on the Quarter 4 position of corporate risks for April 2018 – March 2019 contained within the Corporate Risk Register as outlined in the Corporate Risks Summary Report.

The appended Risk Summary Report (Annex A) provided an overview of the Quarter 4 position (April 2018 – March 2019) of risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register (Annex B).

During Quarter 4, the Council's style of risk reporting had been reviewed to reflect the feedback received from Audit Committee in February 2019. At this meeting, Audit Committee indicated that the current risk report and the associated Register were considerable in size and recommended that consideration should be given to improving its format.

In response to this, the format of the risk report had been refreshed and streamlined. Previously the risk report incorporated a detailed analysis of Corporate Risks in the covering Committee report alongside a Risk Report and the detailed Risk Register.

The new format presented the risk analysis element in the body of the Risk Summary Report (as opposed to the accompanying Committee report). This provided a more concise way of illustrating the headline issues and considerations with regard to risk. The new report format also enabled users to be able to have a good overview of the status of risks across the Register as well as the emerging

issues and provided the ability to link to the Register in order to drill down into the detail of individual risks as required.

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation highlighted during the Audit Committee Meeting that the Committee was being asked to consider adding Brexit as a risk in its own right and to endorse the removal of Contract Management risk from the Risk Register.

An Audit Committee Member stated that there had been some risks contained within the Register for a considerable amount of time, these being Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the new Social Services Information System – Wales Community Care Information System (WCCIS). In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that an update report on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards would be provided at the next meeting and this area of risk had been due to the sheer volume assessments and the capacity of the service to respond. In addition, the Head of Finance stated that extra legal support had been provided in order to speed up the assessment process. In relation to the WCCIS, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that there were a number of issues around the implementation of the new system but work to resolve these issues were at hand.

In reply, to a query regarding slippage to risk CR7 Environmental Sustainability, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that this would be considered over the next few months and that there was a lot of activity around this within Environmental Services. In addition, work was underway to merge actions in order for the Council to have a better strategic understanding.

With regard to the removal of Contract Management risk from the Risk Register, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation highlighted that the area of independent domiciliary care was being monitored, particularly in terms of the fragility of the domiciliary and residential care markets for which an analysis was underway.

A Committee Member stated that following a BBC programme regarding the use of plastics, greater consideration needed to be given around the Council's environment and waste policy. In addition, the Member stated that when source separation recycling would come into being, then this needed to be highlighted as an area of high risk and so greater public information needed to be provided. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that the timing of the BBC programme coincided well with the Council's new waste management plan and this would be highlighted as a key theme within the Council's new Corporate Plan. In addition, waste management had been an area of review by the Wales Audit Office and a report detailing the outcome would be provided to the Audit Committee.

The Member also referred to page 8 and Risk CR1 Reshaping Services regarding Community Asset Transfers, the Member stated that use of the term 'progressing well' was an opinion. He also asked for clarification of when guidance will be completed. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that this would be clarified.

With regard to additional funding of £20m provided for Welsh Government for people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), a Committee Member stated that it was important for the Council to ensure that this funding was reaching the right people and he queried whether the Council had sufficient resources to meet increased demand. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that the Risk Register needed to fully consider all legislative changes, especially where demand for services was increasing. He stated that there would be an update on the ALN provision in the Quarter 1 update for 2019/20.

In addition, the Committee made the following comments:

- Was the new Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) available for Town and Community Councils;
- Was there a shared bibliography administration that all libraries across the Vale could use;
- In relation to security software, the Council used Veronis and Clear Swift and a Member stated why could the Council not use five or six data security systems.

In regard to the above, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that the new DBS system would be made available to Town and Community Councils, and he advised that the new system would speed up the vetting process. The Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that clarification on the other two points would be sought from the appropriate officers and fed back to Members of the Committee.

Furthermore, the Committee considered that it was useful for the Risk Register to contain a list of acronyms and abbreviation. The Chairman then asked whether the Council had enough resources in order to meet greater challenging targets around the environment and climate change. In response, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that an update would be provided for Quarter 1 2019/20 which would include tracking of resources implications.

Having considered the report, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the new style of Corporate Risk report be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the Quarter 4 position of corporate risks for the period April 2018 – March 2019 be noted.
- (3) T H A T the inclusion of Brexit as a risk on the Register be endorsed.
- (4) T H A T the removal of Contract Management risk from the Risk Register be agreed.
- (5) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To present and gain approval for a new style of Corporate Risk Reporting.
- (2-4) To identify the Quarter 4 position of corporate risks across the Council and highlight any emerging issues and actions to be taken.
- (5) To ensure Cabinet receives a Quarter 4 position on the Corporate Risk Register and endorses the recommendations contained within the report.”

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the new style of Corporate Risk report be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the Quarter 4 position of corporate risks for the period April 2018 – March 2019 be noted.
- (3) T H A T the inclusion of Brexit as a risk on the Register be endorsed.
- (4) T H A T the removal of Contract Management risk from the Risk Register be agreed.

Reason for decision

- (1) To present and gain approval for a new style of Corporate Risk Reporting.
- (2-4) To identify the Quarter 4 position of corporate risks across the Council and highlight any emerging issues and actions to be taken.

C81 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY, 2019 (REF) –

Cabinet considered the reference following the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th July, 2019.

The Head of Finance had previously presented the report to advise the Scrutiny Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the first two months of the financial year, 1st April to 31st May, 2019. In summary, the officer advised that the revenue position for 2019/20 was challenging, with the savings target for the year being set at £545k and that the capital budget had been set at £5.031m.

The forecast for Social Services was shown as a balanced budget however this was after a potential unplanned transfer from reserves of £1.5m.

| Directorate/Service | 2019/20 | 2019/20 | Variance |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| | Original Budget | Projected | (+)Favourable (-) Adverse |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Children and Young People | 16,098 | 17,598 | -1,500 |
| Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend | 0 | (1,500) | +1,500 |
| Adult Services | 47,957 | 47,957 | 0 |
| Resource Management & Safeguarding | 272 | 272 | 0 |
| Leisure Services | 1,349 | 1,349 | 0 |
| Total | 65,676 | 65,676 | 0 |

The Officer advised that the major concern for the Children and Young People Service was the continued pressure on the children's placements budget given the complexities of the children currently being supported and the high cost placements some of the children required to meet their needs. Work continued to ensure that children were placed in the most appropriate and cost effective placements, however in the context of the complexity of need and the national challenges in identifying placements, it was projected that the budget could overspend by around £1.5m for the current financial year. The Officer also noted that due to the potential high cost of each placement, the outturn position could fluctuate with a change in the number of children looked after and/or the complexity of need. In previous years Welsh Government had provided additional funding which had assisted the year end position however this could not be guaranteed and relied upon so early in the financial year. The service held a reserve that could be accessed at year end to fund high cost placements if required.

The Adult Services budget was currently projecting a breakeven position, however, the major issue concerning the service for the coming year would continue to be the pressure on the Community Care Packages budget which was extremely volatile and was influenced by legislative changes such as the National Living Wage. Therefore, the outturn position was difficult to predict. The Officer went on to note that the service also continued to be affected by the pressures of continued demographic growth, an increase in the cost of service provision and that the Community Care Packages budget would need to achieve further savings during the financial year. The service would strive to manage growing demand and would develop savings initiatives which may be funded via regional grants. Welsh Government had continued to provide Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to allow collaborative working between Health and Cardiff and the Vale Councils however the level of grant funding was not guaranteed on an ongoing basis.

With regards to Leisure Services, the Officer advised that the Parks element of the revenue budget could no longer be reported separately, as operationally it was an integrated part of the new Neighbourhood Services. It was therefore only possible

to report the Leisure and Play element under the Leisure Services heading for the Committee. As Parks capital schemes were separately identifiable they would continue to be reported to the Committee.

In conclusion, the Officer summarised the key points regarding the appendices for the report as follows:

- As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20, a savings target of £545k was set for the Committee. Appendix 1 to the report was a statement detailing all savings targets for 2019/20 and it was anticipated that all savings would be achieved this year;
- Appendix 2 provided further detail of the savings within the Social Services Budget Programme. The Corporate Programme Board and project teams overseeing the Plan would continue to monitor and ensure its delivery. As in previous years, ongoing progress updates would to be reported to Committee as part of the overall financial monitoring report for the Directorate;
- Appendix 3 detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31st May, 2019 and included requests for unspent committed expenditure to be slipped from the 2018/19 Capital Programme into 2019/20 as approved by Emergency Powers on 20th June, 2019.

A Member agreed with the Officer's statement that the Social Services sector continued to have immense financial pressures, however wished to express the opinion that the pressures on Adult Services were predictable to a degree, which contradicted the Officer's statement within paragraph 2.3 of the report, as the Council was aware of the demographics of the Vale. Therefore, the Member stated that the Committee needed to enforce the point with Cabinet and Officers more strongly that realistic funding be allocated to the Adult Services budget.

In response, the Head of Finance offered her agreement and advised that the Council was unable to keep using reserves as reserves were only used as a short term solution. The Officer further advised that Cabinet had very recently agreed to increase the Social Services funding on the Medium Term Financial Plan and that Adult Services remained the only area that had a cost pressure built in at the medium term stage of financial planning. Therefore, the Officer wished to provide reassurance that officers were already having discussions to respond to the ongoing pressures.

The Member then wished to reiterate that the funding available for children in Looked After care was also dramatically unrealistic and recommended that the Committee express its great concern over the unrealistic allocation of funds during the Council's financial planning to Cabinet.

Following the Member's recommendation being seconded, the Chairman concluded the item by informing officers that she would be happy to support any efforts to rectify the difficult situation for the service going forward.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the position with regard to the 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets be noted.
- (2) T H A T the concerns of the Committee regarding unrealistic allocation of funding to both the Children and Young People and Adult Services budgets, as set out in the minutes above, be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) That Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2019/20.
- (2) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the concerns of the Committee regarding the allocation of funding for the relevant Social Services areas under significant pressure.”

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health acknowledged the adverse variance relating to the Children and Young People Service Budget as a result of fluctuating service pressures and offered reassurance that all staff were working hard to deliver the essential services.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the position with regard to the 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets be noted.
- (2) T H A T the concerns of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee regarding unrealistic allocation of funding to both the Children and Young People and Adult Services budgets, as set out in the minutes above, be noted.

Reason for decision

- (1) That Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2019/20.
- (2) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the concerns of the Committee regarding the allocation of funding for the relevant Social Services areas under significant pressure.

C82 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL –

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 8th July, 2019 were submitted.

Present: Councillor B.T. Gray (Chairman), Mrs. P. Drake, O. Griffiths, Dr. I.J. Johnson, K.F. McCaffer, Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn and E. Williams; Ms. J. Ballantine (Principal HR Business Partner), Mrs. K. Bowen (Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer), L. Carver (Director of Social Services), Mrs. M. Coles (LAC Education Co-ordinator and Lead Professional EAL), Ms. A. Condy (Operational Manager CYPS), Ms. K. Conway (Operational Manager CYPS), M. Dacey (Lead Officer Social Inclusion and Wellbeing), D. Davies (Head of Achievement for All), Mrs. R. Evans (Head of Children and Young People Services), Ms. M. Hudson (Head of Standards and Provision Learning and Skills) Ms. C. Light (Care Leavers Forum Representative), Mr. M.E. Thomas (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer) and Ms. G. Toon (Complex Needs Manager and Principal Educational Psychologist).

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| (1) | Apologies for Absence – |
| | There were no apologies. |
| (2) | Welcome, Introductions and Terms of Reference – |
| | <p>The Chairman welcomed the attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves around the table. New attendees included C. Light from the Care Leavers Forum, who would be the representative for that Forum for the next 12 months. The Head of Children and Young People Services stated that the Care Leavers Forum had met and had considered the Corporate Strategy. Another new attendee was M. Dacey, who was the Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the Terms of Reference, attached to the agenda, stating that the role of the corporate parent was to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Local Authority had a legal and moral duty to provide such loyal support to the children it was responsible for looking after.</p> <p>Cabinet had resolved on 17th June that the Corporate Parenting Panel be re-appointed, with its membership comprising the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health (Chairman of the Panel), 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Labour Group Members and 1 Member each from the Plaid Cymru Group, Llantwit First Independents Group and the Vale Independents Group.</p> |
| (3) | Minutes and Matters Arising – |
| | The minutes of the meeting held on 1 st April, 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. |
| (4) | Corporate Strategy for Children Who Need Care and Support 2019-23 – |
| | RE stated that current Strategy ends in 2019 and had provided a shared direction over the last three years and this work had helped inform the direction going forward. |

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| | <p>This new four year Strategy had been developed in partnership with the Council's external partners in Health and the Third Sector and very positively reflected the relationships in the structure of the Strategy itself and the actions to support it. The Action Plan for the Strategy involved the Vale of Glamorgan Council and partners making commitments together with the four objectives. RE stated that it had been originally intended to present the Strategy in May, however, due to political changes this had been delayed until now. The Strategy would also be taken to Scrutiny and Cabinet.</p> <p>The Chairman stated the intention was to have a discussion on this document and that the structure of the discussion would be based on the four objectives.</p> <p>Councillor Nugent-Finn stated that prevention was a good theme and asked whether needs had increased due to increases in demographics. RE replied that there was indeed increased demand and complexity and went on to say the complexity was due to poverty and other factors, which impact education through to housing.</p> <p>Councillor Nugent-Finn stated that the strength based approach was realistic, positive and achievable but did ask whether there would be any challenges or shortages. RE stated that support for families was based on offering 'the right support and at the right time' and where possible higher level support only in the short term. The requirement regionally was challenging and exciting in terms of new services.</p> <p>In terms of the first objective, RE advised that 47% of children were still placed with parents or kin and that supporting families was the first aim, but if necessary children would be taken into care. She also noted the pressure on placements and associated external spend.</p> <p>CL referred to the Care Leavers Forum which had come up with a number of suggestions such as the Voluntary Buddy System where care experienced young people offered their support to those in care, for example, going shopping, bowling etc. with children, in order to stop children in care feeling isolated. She also stated this proposal helped to achieve the first objective. CL said that peer group support did benefit those children in care as some of them felt a lot more comfortable dealing with their peers as opposed to officials and would help care leavers become more independent. RE stated that the Care Leavers Forum idea was a great one. CL also stated that children were happy with the Corporate Plan but wanted to do something in addition to it, such as the Care Leavers Forum.</p> |
| | <p>Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to Objective 4 "To jointly develop with children a plan for the next stages of their lives" and wondered if the wording should be clearer but still reflected what was going on in terms of this objective and to ensure that the child is heard at all times. RE agreed to revisit this.</p> <p>Councillor Dr. Johnson further stated that the timescales and four year plan should be reviewed again in 18 months. RE stated that the Action Plan was</p> |

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| | <p>the real driving force of the Corporate Strategy and as such, this was updated all the time. This is reflected later in the document. The Chairman suggested that the wording be brought forward in the Strategy.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be an annual review of Corporate Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor Williams stated the Corporate Strategy was a good document, and he was impressed with the goals. Councillor Dr. Johnson also stated that it was a fair division in terms of progress of social services and external partners under the Corporate Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor Dr. Johnson asked about mental health in the Strategy, to which RE replied mental health was referred to as emotional wellbeing and the Strategy was seeking to emphasise the importance of a common approach.</p> <p>The Chairman in conclusion advised that it was important that services were kept up to date around the Corporate Strategy.</p> |
| (5) | <p>Breakdown of Our Numbers of Children Looked After –</p> <p>KC provided details of the current statistics as at 8th July, 2019 which advised that there were currently 280 children looked after, of which 139 were female and 141 were male. The ages of children looked after were noted as:</p> <p>0-5 years – 83 6-10 years – 70 11-15 years – 88 16-17 years – 39</p> <p>The legal status of children looked after were:</p> <p>Care Order – 212 Interim Care Order – 15 Placement Order – 26 Section 76 – 25 Secure Order – 2 Remand – 0</p> <p>Children looked after were placed as follows:</p> <p>73 were placed in Vale of Glamorgan mainstream foster placements 45 were placed in independent fostering agency placements 70 were placed in kinship placements with their wider family 63 were placed with their parents 15 were placed in residential placements: - 4 in residential schools and 11 in children’s homes, 2 in a secure unit on welfare grants, 0 were placed in youth offender institute on remand, 2 were placed in parent and children assessment centre, 3 were placed in independent living projects and</p> |

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| | <p>7 were placed for adoption pending the grant of an Adoption Order.</p> <p>KC went on to detail the external placements costs: the cost of current independent fostering agency placements were between £606 - £1,890 per week, with the average placement costing £755 per week. The costs of current residential placements were between £2,800 - £4,830 per week. The costs of current secure placements was between £5,500 - £7,500 per week. The Council's external placements budget was £4,357k and current projected spend against that budget was £5,884k which meant that a £1,527k overspend was currently being projected at year end.</p> <p>Councillor Griffiths asked around children under Interim Care Orders and Section 76 as to whether they would be going back to their parents. KC advised that the primary goal, where achievable, was to support rehabilitation.</p> <p>RE advised that Children and Young People Services were looking to support parents as much as possible and indeed carers considered the Vale of Glamorgan to be a sensible Authority regarding discharging Orders. KC informed the panel that there had been a huge increase in Courts referring for private matters.</p> <p>Councillor Dr. Johnson raised a query regarding Secure Orders. KC informed the panel that Secure Orders were short term measures and were constantly under review, including monitoring children's progress in order to complete these where necessary and only extend them if appropriate.</p> <p>The Chairman wanted the work being done by Social Services to be noted.</p> |
| (6) | <p>Current Work Programme –</p> <p>The Chairman stated that the First Minister for Wales' aim was to see a reduction in the numbers of children in care down and as such, the reduction of children in care should be included on the work programme in time for the next Corporate Parenting Panel meeting on 23rd September, 2019 at 4.00 p.m.</p> <p>It was also noted that DD's remit was changing and the Panel took the opportunity to thank him for his support. MH would now be taking the lead on high risk students and achievement for all, as well as attending future Panel meetings.</p> <p>The proposed work programme for the Panel was agreed as below:</p> <p>23rd September, 2019 – Prevention of Homelessness and Mental Health Project – Mike Ingram The Reduction in the Numbers of Looked After Children – Rachel Evans Breakdown of Children Looked After – Karen Conway</p> <p>18th November, 2019 – Children most at risk; management of high risk students – David Davies</p> |

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| | 20 th January, 2020 – Edge of Care Analysis, Trends in/out of Care – Karen Conway and Amber Condy 23 rd March, 2020 – TBC |
| (7) | Any Other Business – |
| | No items were raised. |
| (8) | Date of Next Meeting – |
| | 23 rd September, 2019 at 4.30 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Barry. |

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health advised that a Care Leaver Representative had now joined the Panel which had had a positive impact on the meeting itself and provided greater opportunities to focus on the impact for service users.

The Leader added that it was also beneficial for the Cabinet to receive a breakdown of Looked After Children as contained in section 5 of the Panel Minutes, to which, the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health advised that the service area had received a positive response to their work undertaken to reduce the number of Looked After Children.

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RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 8th July, 2019 be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the minutes.

C83 VALE OF GLAMORGAN ANNUAL REPORT (IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 2) 2018/19 (L / PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) -

The Leader presented the report on the draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Report (Improvement Plan Part 2) 2018/19, the purpose of which was to outline the progress towards achieving the Council's Well-being (Improvement) Objectives agreed in April 2018. The report also outlined the Council's performance for 2018/19 on a range of services relative to all other Welsh local authorities as published by Data Cymru. The report also incorporated the Annual Improvement Report from the Auditor General Wales which summarised the audit work undertaken in the Council during the period 2018 to 2019.

The Leader began by noting that due to the timetable set by legislation for publication of the annual review of performance (31st October), the current schedule of Council meetings and availability of national benchmarking data, it

had not been possible for Scrutiny Committees to review the Annual Report prior to it being presented for Cabinet's consideration on 9th September 2019. In order to ensure the views of all Members were considered, it was proposed that the Plan be referred directly to Full Council (9th September 2019) for its consideration. Except for the annual All Wales benchmarking data, the majority of information contained within the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Report had previously been reported to all Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet as part of quarterly performance reporting (most recently in July 2019 as part of end of year reporting). Consultation had been undertaken with relevant Sponsoring Directors for their respective areas.

Based on the evaluation of progress at end of year, it was concluded that overall, the Council had made strong progress in achieving the majority of the outcomes intended in the Well-being (Improvement) Objectives for 2018/19, despite challenging financial times and increased demand for services, giving an overall performance (or RAG) status of GREEN for the Corporate Plan. The Council had delivered on most of its planned activities for the year which was contributing to achieving the Corporate Well-being priorities and the well-being of Vale of Glamorgan citizens. These outcomes and objectives would continue to be long term strategic priorities for the Council and the success achieved in 2018/19 represented a step towards realising the vision of building strong communities with a bright future.

2 out of 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes ('An Inclusive and Safe Vale', 'An Active and Healthy Vale', were attributed an overall Green performance status and the remaining two ('An Active and Healthy Vale' and 'An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale'), Amber status.

A Green performance status was attributed to 4 of the 8 Corporate Plan Well-being (Improvement) Objectives which reflected the excellent progress that had been made with the delivery of planned activities relating to the aligned Corporate Plan priorities. The Green status objectives were in relation to Objective 1 (Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion) Objective 6 (Valuing Culture and Diversity), Objective 7 (Encouraging and Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles) and Objective 8 (Safeguarding those who are Vulnerable and Promoting Independent Living). In relation to Corporate Health, the Council continued to make excellent progress in the context of supporting Council services in the implementation of the Corporate Plan priorities or Well-being (Improvement) Objectives and this was reflected in the Green performance status achieved at end of year.

It was also concluded that the strong progress made in delivering our year 3 priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20, had contributed positively to the national Well-being Goals for Wales. Achievements to date demonstrated the commitment to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our citizens and promoting the sustainable development principle in all our activities.

Each year, Data Cymru published local authority performance information on a range of services, highlighting areas where there had been notable changes in the overall level of performance across Wales. Overall, the Vale of Glamorgan was

performing well in performance indicators across all service areas and once again, for the fifth consecutive year, we were the top performing Council in Wales in relation to the national indicator set (based on the most recent data published on 1st August 2018).

The areas we performed best (ranked 1st in Wales) were in relation to the Average Capped 9 scores, Year 11 leavers NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment), households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless, empty private sector properties brought back into use and rent debit lost due to lettable units of permanent accommodation being empty. It was also recognised improvements could be made to those areas where we were performing in the lower to bottom quartiles when compared with the rest of Wales. These areas related to the condition of roads (specifically Principle A and Principle C roads).

The recent Annual Improvement Report (AIR) from the Auditor General Wales, summarised the audit work undertaken during the period 2018 to 2019 and brought together the key findings from all audit work undertaken in the Council during 2018-19 including those of other inspection and regulatory bodies such as Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools in Wales) and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The report findings were generally positive and concluded that overall, the Council was meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement.

Whilst no formal recommendations were made by the Auditor General, 7 Proposals for Improvement were made in relation to specific local reviews on our corporate arrangements for the safeguarding of children, the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (including tenants' views), and a further 14 areas for development in relation to CIW's inspection of Children's Services. Progress against these would be monitored by the Wales Audit Office throughout 2019-20 as part of the Annual Regulatory Plan. These Proposals for Improvement/ Areas of Development would be incorporated within the Council's Insight Tracker, monitored by the Insight Board and reported to Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee as work to address them progressed.

In conclusion, the Leader requested that recommendation two be amended to incorporate the Cabinet's sincere thanks for the continued hard work of all Council Staff contributing to the Data Cymru Performance Information. The Leader's suggestion was seconded by the Deputy Leader who highlighted that the report included a positive set of results and that her specific thanks go to the staff within her service areas.

The Deputy Leader also referred to the following positive infographics within the report:

- Through various targeted initiatives, the council has further reduced the number of Year 11 Leavers known not to be in education, training or employment (NEET). Our performance of 0.5% ranked the Council 1st in Wales;

- GCSE results continue to be good with 77.4% of pupils achieved A* - C grades. In addition, 29.4% of entries were awarded A* - A grades, an improvement on last year's performance of 26.4%;
- There were over 4 million visitors to Vale of Glamorgan according to the STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Model). This has supported almost 3,000 jobs and generated an estimated £250.071m for the economy. This equates to a 2.4% growth in tourism on the previous year;
- The Vale's Country Parks are a part of its greenspace heritage and the Council is committed to conserving this asset for the future and maximising its health and wellbeing benefits to citizens. These assets remain very popular with visitors and residents alike and during 2018/19, high satisfaction was reported for visits to Vale Country Parkes (98%) and the Heritage Coast (99%).

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services also wished to thank her service areas and expressed her gratitude for the Homelessness Prevention Team who were continuing to implement their prevention processes as early as possible to support individuals facing homelessness.

In response to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport's comment that the Council's success, as set out in the report, being due to the fantastic dedication of Council Staff and the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services commended the consolidation of performance monitoring reports into the current format as it afforded members the opportunity to more accurately monitor progress in a more timely manner.

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 Vale of Glamorgan Annual Report (Improvement Plan Part 2) 2018/19 be endorsed and referred to Full Council on 9th September 2019 for approval.

(2) T H A T the Council's overall performance on the national performance indicator dataset for 2018/19 relative to all Welsh local authorities as published by the Data Cymru on 1st August 2019 and that analysis of this data ranked the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the highest performing local authority in Wales for the fifth year running be noted and that the Cabinet's sincere thanks be extended to all the dedicated Council Staff contributing to the Council's success.

(3) T H A T the findings of the Annual Improvement Report (AIR) from the Auditor General Wales, which summarised the audit, regulatory and inspection work undertaken in the Council covering the 2018-19 period be noted.

(4) 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 recommendations 1 – 3 above.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Council fully discharges its duties under both the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG) and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (LGM) to publish an annual review of council performance against its Well-being (Improvement) Objectives by 31st October as per the statutory timetable.

(2) To apprise Members of the performance of the Vale of Glamorgan Council relative to other Welsh local authorities during 2018/19.

(3) To apprise Cabinet of the Auditor General's report findings in relation to the audit, regulatory and inspection work undertaken in the Council during 2018-19.

(4) The Urgent Decision Procedure is required in order for the report to be considered by Council in advance of 31st October, which is the statutory publication date for this report under the Local Government Measure (2009).

C84 USE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR'S EMERGENCY POWERS (L / CP) (SCRUTINY – ALL)

The Cabinet was presented with a report to notify them of the exercising of Emergency Powers by the Managing Director since the last report of 1st July, 2019 as per the Council's Constitution at page 270 (delegated powers) which states:

“MANAGING DIRECTOR OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE NOMINATED DEPUTY

1. Power to act, after consulting the appropriate Cabinet Member and, in the case only of matters involving the Council in financial commitments, the Leader, Section 151 Officer and the appropriate Chief Officer, in respect of any matter which, in his opinion:

(a) requires immediate action; and

(b) does not justify holding a special meeting of the body which would ordinarily consider the matter or is of such urgency or emergency as not to allow time for such a meeting; use of such delegated powers to be subsequently reported back to the Cabinet or Council as appropriate.”

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 exercising of the Managing Director's Emergency Powers as indicated below be noted:

(a) Housing EWI Installation and Rendering Scheme

As there were no Cabinet meetings being held until September 2019, and following the completion of the tender process, delegated authority was required to enable the service to enter into a framework contract with Thomas CMS Holdings Ltd for the value of £711,410.90. This contractor provided the most economically viable tender when quality and cost were considered. In order to succeed in spending the Capital Budget for housing, this project needed to be commenced as soon as possible.

(Scrutiny – Homes and Safe Communities)

(b) Asbestos Works Framework

As there were no Cabinet meetings being held until September 2019, and following the completion of the tender process, delegated authority was required to enable the service to enter into a framework contract with:

- Lot 1 – Asbestos removal (Licensed and Non-licensed):
 - Omega Environmental Services Ltd;
 - Severn Insulation Co Ltd;
 - Woods Building Services Ltd.
- Lot 2 – Asbestos Survey (Management and R&D), including Analysis and Air Monitoring:
 - Environtech Ltd;
 - MSS Group Ltd;
 - Tersus Consultancy.

These contractors provided the most economically viable tender when quality and cost had been considered, and work will be systematically rotated to provide equal opportunity for all.

(c) Barry Leisure Centre – Refurbishment of Dry Side Changing Rooms

At the Cabinet meeting on 17th June, 2019 approval of funding for the refurbishment of the dry side changing rooms at Barry Leisure Centre was deferred pending additional information regarding the programme of these works. The contractor who recently completed the refurbishment of the Barry Leisure Centre wet side changing rooms has confirmed that they will be able to complete the dry side changing room refurbishment by the end of November 2019. The contract will be left in compliance with Contract Standing Orders. As the contractor already has a site established at Barry Leisure Centre this is considered the most economical solution.

Due to the urgent requirement to increase the 2019/20 budget to allow the works to commence, the use of Emergency Powers was requested to transfer £100,000 from the Building Fund to the Capital Programme to allow the refurbishment of the Barry Leisure Centre dry side changing rooms to proceed.

(Scrutiny – Healthy Living and Social Care)

Reason for decision

To note the use of the exercising of Emergency Powers by the Managing Director since the last report.

C85 BIODIVERSITY FORWARD PLAN PART 2 (ER) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) -

The Deputy Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to meet statutory requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 by the adoption of a Biodiversity Forward plan for the Council and highlighted that the report was Part 2 of the Biodiversity Forward Plan which set out an action plan.

The report addressed the statutory requirement of all Local Authorities in Wales under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to demonstrate how they would “seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems”. Part one of the Forward plan was previously approved by Cabinet on April 15th (C653). It set out the background, legislative context and identified challenges and opportunities. Part two (the appended document) set out the actions and targets to be undertaken to achieve these aims.

The Biodiversity Forward Plan looked at how the Council managed and improved natural resources to ensure that biodiversity and sustainability were considered in all service areas and were core themes in service delivery, becoming an integral part of the decision making processes throughout the Council.

The actions in the Biodiversity Forward Action Plan, would be reported on every three years in accordance with statutory requirements, and reviewed and updated at the end of each 3-year reporting period. Each service area would have responsibility for delivery and monitoring of the forward plan.

Each action would address at least one of our identified objectives (taken from the Nature Recovery Action Plan) and would be assessed against the 5 ways of working. The plan would be linked to and aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan and Service Plans.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader wished to highlight some interesting actions as set out within the Biodiversity Forward Plan as follows:

- Highway Gulley Pots Trial: Trial small animal escape ladders in existing gulley pots to test viability. If tests are successful, then escape ladders will be requested as standard on all new gulley pots;
- Dark corridors for Wildlife: As detailed in the Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance which requires all new medium and large developments to incorporate dark movement corridors for wildlife;
- Peat: Ensure no use of peat, or products containing/made from peat;

- Area of wildflower meadow on park land: The Vale currently has 174,487 metre squares of land managed as wildflower meadow, and aims to increase the area of naturalised in areas in the Vale by approximately 5,000 meter squares per year.

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 Biodiversity Forward Plan (Part 2) be approved.

Reason for decision

In order to conform to the statutory requirements to publish a document setting out the Council's approach to natural resources and to ensure that biodiversity sustainability is considered in all service areas.

C86 FIRST FLOOR TOURISM OFFICES, FORMER TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, BARRY ISLAND (ER) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Deputy Leader presented a report which sought Cabinet approval to commercially rent the upper floor of the Former Tourist Information Centre building which was previously the Tourism Information Office however when this function ceased it was leased to the RNLI in 2014.

The building known as the Former Tourism Information Office on Barry Island was owned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and managed by the Regeneration Department. The 1st floor offices had been the offices for the Vale of Glamorgan Council Tourism team, however in July 2019 they vacated the space to be based within the Dock Offices. In addition, the space was used by Neighbourhood Services for Resort Manager and resort staff welfare. Following consultation with Neighbourhood Services new arrangements had been made by that team for Resort staff welfare. There were 4 off street car parking spaces allocated to the 1st Floor Offices. The 1st Floor Office and associated car parking had been identified as an asset which could be utilised to gain a rental income for the Council. Work had been undertaken under delegation to the Operational Manager, Regeneration to explore a range of potential uses.

The proposals for the potential use of the building were taken to Insight Board in July 2019 where no objections were raised.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Estates team have undertaken a preliminary marketing report that recommended that the property be advertised for let by Informal tender process for a guide of £14,000 per annum for the existing office use. Other uses will be considered, but other uses would be subject to appropriate Planning consents.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader noted that in order to market the building subject to Cabinet approval, a compliant EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) and condition survey were required.

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 an intention to commercially let the 1st Floor Office, Former TIC and car parking spaces that are adjacent to the building be declared.
- (2) T H A T, subject to recommendation 1, the marketing and letting of 1st Floor Office, Former TIC for the range of uses outlined in the report be approved.
- (3) T H A T, subject to recommendations 1 and 2, delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning and Operational Manager (Regeneration) in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration and the Operational Manager (Property) to negotiate and agree the Heads of Terms and manage the letting of the Former TIC Office space.
- (4) T H A T, subject to recommendations 1 and 2, delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete and execute the appropriate legal documentation to tenant the 1st Floor Office, Former TIC via lease.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In order to allow the Council to market the 1st Floor Office, Former TIC and of it by lease at the appropriate time.
- (2) To allow for the marketing of the asset for a range of appropriate uses.
- (3) To determine Heads of Terms to be agreed with potential tenants.
- (4) To enable a lease, to be completed.

C87 SUPPORTING PEOPLE CONTRACTS – ONE STOP SHOP (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services presented the report which sought permission to commission a One Stop Shop to deliver support services to individuals who had housing related support needs, including those who were homeless or threatened with homelessness and began by stressing the importance of the service.

The provision would be delivered from a centrally based office and provide satellite services across the Vale of Glamorgan to meet demand. Service users would be able to 'drop in' to the One Stop Shop for support, which could potentially allow for the delivery of group courses, as well as hosting other appropriate, related services. In addition, the Service would provide outreach support, for example, accompanying service users to appointments.

The need to develop this Service was evidenced in the Council's Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan, and was compliant with the Supporting People Programme Guidance from Welsh Government. It also reflected the vision and direction of travel of the Programme. The service would be able to provide support on demand, reducing waiting times and providing a more early intervention, preventative service. It would free up floating support services to be targeted at the most vulnerable people living in the Vale of Glamorgan

It would also help to protect the most vulnerable service users if funding was reduced in the future by providing more efficient, targeted services. In addition, it would assist the local authority in fulfilling its duties under The Housing (Wales) Act 2014, The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Similar services developed in neighbouring local authorities have reported that high numbers of people who do not normally engage with traditional SPPG services have accessed support through "One Stop Shops", providing more opportunity for an early intervention, preventative approach and reducing the burden on statutory services, such as Homelessness Services, Social Services, Police and Health.

The Leader added that the service would provide the opportunity to engage with hard to reach individuals and allow services to be even more accessible.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Head of Housing and Building Services be authorised to enter into a competitive tendering process to commission a One Stop Shop Service to deliver support services to individuals who have housing related support needs, including those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- (2) That the Council's Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal Service and Democratic Services be authorised to execute the contract for a period of three years with an option to extend for up to a further two years.
- (3) That the report be referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

(4) That a further report be brought to Cabinet in twelve months' time outlining the progress made and outcomes achieved by the One Stop Shop Project.

Reasons for decisions

(1) The service is consistent with the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan, and the Supporting People Programme Guidance, reflect the vision and direction of travel of the programme. Providing an early intervention, preventative approach and reduce the burden on statutory services

(2) To comply with the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.

(3) The Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee has oversight of the Project.

(4) To ensure the Project is providing a good quality service which is delivering the required outcomes for service users

C88 APPROVAL TO CONSENT TO A COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES)

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services presented the report which sought Cabinet approval to consent to a Community Sponsorship Application as submitted by Croeso Llantwit to accommodate and support one refugee family in the town.

The Member began by advising that in May 2016, Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed to participate in the resettlement of vulnerable Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) on a regional basis, under a three year Collaborative Agreement. In July 2016, the Community Sponsorship Scheme was launched as a strand of the VPRS, to enable community groups (sponsors) to become directly involved in refugee resettlement. The Home Office intended to resettle one hundred and twenty families under this scheme.

In conclusion, the Member advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had worked closely with core members of Croeso Llantwit during the past year, to provide guidance and support during the development of its sponsorship application, based on its own experiences of refugee resettlement. The Authority had also taken reasonable steps to ensure the group had considered all operational aspects of the resettlement process in preparation for the rigours of supporting a vulnerable refugee family.

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 content of the report be noted and it be agreed to consent to the Croeso Llantwit Community Sponsorship application.

Reason for decision

The Community Sponsor ("the Sponsor") is required to obtain written consent from the Local Authority, in order for the application to proceed for detailed evaluation and approval by the Home Office. Croeso Llantwit consulted with the Local Authority throughout the development of the resettlement plan and engaged openly with the subsequent analysis by regional stakeholders. The Authority is therefore satisfied with the sustainability of the application and that all foreseeable risks have been mitigated by the sponsor.

C89 LLANMAES FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) -

The Leader opened the item by drawing Cabinet's attention to the relevant supplementary information tabled at the meeting which contained comments received from Councillor Gwyn John in his capacity as Local Ward Member.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport then set out the report which was seeking Cabinet approval to commence land negotiations and acquisition as part of the Llanmaes flood alleviation scheme. The scheme encompassed engineering works to reduce the risk of flooding to various properties within the village of Llanmaes to the South West of Cowbridge.

In response to Councillor John's comments, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the development of a scheme of this nature was complex and dependant on detailed modelling and consultation with statutory regulators such as NRW. This particular scheme had evolved over several years, particularly to accommodate the construction of the Northern Access Road. The most recent flood modelling had resulted in an optimised scheme with potential to significantly reduce construction costs whilst providing a favourable solution to the flood risks. The optimised design would also reduce the extent of engineering works and disruption within the village itself with works planned to commence on site this financial year subject to all necessary approvals and land negotiations.

An attenuation structure on land South East of the village which formed part of the scheme had already been constructed as part of the Welsh Government's Northern Access Road (NAR) project and was now fully operational.

The Council appointed the Welsh Government's consultant for the NAR to carry out design works and modelling for the Llanmaes Village Flood Risk Management Scheme. The preferred scheme design currently comprised highway works and several flood storage bunds.

The consultant had identified an "optimisation" of the preferred scheme to reduce overall construction costs. This involved an increase in the flood bund capacity

and the introduction of a swale feature. Any land impacted would be subject to appropriate negotiations.

Subject to NRW approval of the final design and all other necessary consents and permissions it was anticipated that the construction phase would be able to commence this financial year.

Final funding approval was subject to a formal grant application to Welsh Government.

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 both the report and supplementary information be noted and be considered in conjunction with the associated report under Part II of the agenda.

Reason for decision

To apprise Cabinet of the issues.

C90 PROVIDING A DIRECT PAYMENTS SUPPORT SERVICE TENDER (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) -

Authority was sought to retender the contract relating to the provision of Direct Payments Support Service and the report, as presented by the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, outlined the need to retender the Direct Payments contract that would expire in February 2020.

Direct Payments were payments made by the Council to people who would usually receive a service from Social Services. They assisted people who wanted to manage their own support to improve their quality of life. They promoted independence, social inclusion and enhanced self-esteem by enabling people to live in their own homes, be fully involved in family and community life and to participate actively in work, education and leisure opportunities.

The current contract consisted of a support scheme to ensure that appropriate advice, information and support was available to all Service User groups and to encourage confidence for Service Users to undertake the complexities of using Direct Payments to meet their support needs legally and efficiently.

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 Director of Social Services and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, the Leader or Deputy Leader) be authorised to commence tendering procedures for the services outlined in the report.

(2) T H A T the Director of Social Services and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, the Leader or Deputy Leader) be authorised to accept and award the tender for this service in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

(3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to execute the Contract for 3 years, with an option to extend for a further 2 years.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that the Council Provides a Direct Payment Support Service in a cost effective way and meets the assessed needs of service users.

(2) Fulfils the responsibilities set out under regulations made under Sections 50-53 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014); Local Authorities have powers to provide Direct Payments to meet the care and support needs of an individual.

(3) Meets the requirements of its Financial Procedural Rules and Contract Procedure Rules.

C91 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 11A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972m the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the local item 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.

C92 LLANMAES FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 13 AND 14) -

Continuing on from the Part I report presented earlier on the agenda, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to commence land negotiations and acquisition as part of the Llanmaes flood alleviation scheme.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted and the optimisation of the preferred scheme proposed to deliver the Llanmaes Flood Alleviation scheme be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T Authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, the Section 151 officer/Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into negotiations with third party landowners in respect of any agreements required to be entered into to enable the proposed flood alleviation scheme to proceed.
- (3) T H A T Delegated Authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to draft and enter into all necessary contracts, agreements and transfers in respect of the interests to be acquired from third party landowners at the appropriate time and complete all necessary legal agreements relating to the purchases, providing all necessary funding had been secured from Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform members of recent progress on this important project and obtain approval of the proposed scheme aimed at reducing future flood risk in the village of Llanmaes.
- (2) In order to ensure appropriate terms and conditions are negotiated with relevant landowners.
- (3) To allow all required legal documentation to be prepared and entered into and for the right to acquire the necessary interests or rights, occupy the land or complete and execute any acquisition of land required to be completed to progress the scheme as soon as funding is in place.