

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting held on 21st October, 2019.

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

C112 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and reminded them that this was a meeting held in public, rather than a public meeting and therefore there would be no opportunity for comment or questions other than from Members of the Cabinet and officers advising Cabinet Members.

C113 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

C114 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Name of Councillor	Nature of Interest
Councillor B.T. Gray	<p>Agenda Item Nos. 8 and 13 – Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WeITAG Stage 2.</p> <p>Reason for declaration – Councillor Gray had a personal and potentially prejudicial interest in that he was a Trustee of the Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd. Pending advice from the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Gray withdrew for both agenda items that were considered together at the point of Agenda Item No. 8.</p>

C116 CORPORATE COMPLAINTS 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT (REF) –

Cabinet considered a reference from the Audit Committee which advised that the Council had adopted the Welsh Government's Model Corporate Concerns and Complaints Policy in July 2013. There was a two-stage process, Stage 1 and

Stage 2. Complaints at Stage 1 were seen as informal resolution and should be responded to within 10 working days. Stage 2 complaints were seen as formal complaints and should be responded to within 20 working days. After that the complainant was advised to contact the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW), if they remained unhappy.

All Corporate Complaints and Compliments were recorded on Oracle CRM and fed into the Complaints and Compliments Dashboards. These excluded Social Services complaints which were resolved via a different procedure and were reported separately, but a summary of performance had been included for information.

The Audit Committee, within its terms of reference, monitored the performance of Corporate Complaints and made recommendations to Cabinet/and or Council as appropriate.

While the Council saw an increase in total number of complaints raised (420) compared to 2017/18 (296), the fact that 93% of these were resolved at Stage 1 indicated that the Council were undertaking effective investigation and resolution.

The percentage of complaints resolved within target time scales remained consistent with the previous year at 56.7% (2017/18 56.8%), however this was significantly reduced on the 2016/17 performance of 75%.

Since the reporting period the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) had received additional powers which included the creation of a Compliance Standards Agency with a remit to monitor local authority performance in relation to volumes and types of complaints received, cause of complaints and how quickly complaints were resolved.

During the year the PSOW received 24 complaints relating to the Council, significantly fewer than the 36 which was the expected average based on population size and fewer than the 30 received in 2017/18. No complaints were taken into consideration by the PSOW during the year.

This report detailed complaint performance for Directorates for 2017/18 and included performance trends since 2014/15.

Social Services received a total of 105 complaints and enquiries during the same period. Members noted that Social Services complaints and enquiries were subject to a separate reporting process. A summary of Social Services complaints performance was included in Appendix A.

Environment and Housing upheld the highest percentage of complaints in full at 44.7%, however this was part of a downward trend from 49.7% in 2014/15. Managing Director and Resources upheld 22.1% during the year while Learning and Skills did not uphold any complaints in full and part upheld 1 of the 5 received by the Directorate.

Overall for the Council the percentage of enquiries upheld in full remained relatively consistent at around 40% over the past 5 years, while there was an increasing trend for the percentage not upheld over the period (32% - 40%) and there was a corresponding downward trend for complaints with an outcome of part upheld.

Despite services being able to monitor their own complaint performance since September 2016, the percentage resolved within target remained relatively low at 56.7%. This was broadly in line with performance in 2017/8 of 56.8% but significantly lower than the 75% achieved in 2016/17.

The Learning and Skills Directorate resolved the highest number of complaints within target at 80%, with the Managing Director and Resources and Environment and Housing at 58.8% and 55.9% respectively.

This area of performance was likely to come under increasing focus with the establishment of the PSOW Compliance Standards Authority. Councils would be required to provide quarterly data on the numbers, types and outcome of complaints together with speed of response.

67% of complaints did not have a recorded cause. Unfortunately the level of confidence in data relating to the causes of complaints for the Council overall was low as a result. This was a significant decrease in recording from the previous year which stood at 36.2%.

For Learning and Skill 0% of complaints had a recorded cause (2017/18 63.6%), Managing Director and Resources 52.6% (2017/18 77.2%) and Environment and Housing 29.6% (2017/18 58.8%).

This performance was reflected in recording of learning outcomes with 65.6% of complaints having no learning outcome recorded. Where outcomes were recorded the most popular was "Review Service Standards" at 17.3% of all complaints, followed by Staff Training at 11.2%.

Appendix B provided Members with a copy of a letter received from the PSOW setting out the Council's performance in relation to Ombudsman complaints, the new powers of the Office and requesting an update on the Council's consideration of these matters. It was recommended that following consideration by Audit Committee and Cabinet, the Managing Director write to the PSOW to provide a copy of this report, appendices and relevant minutes to demonstrate this.

During the period the PSOW received 24 complaints from Vale of Glamorgan residents. This was circa 33% less than the PSOW would expect based on population size and 6 fewer than in 2017/8.

No complaints were taken into investigation by the PSOW during the year although 4 complaints were resolved through the Early Resolution process.

The year saw a significant increase in complaints received via the Welsh Language Commissioner rising from 1 in 2017/18 to 10. Of these 4 were currently

awaiting the outcome of the Commissioners investigations, 2 were in the process of being resolved, 3 had not been investigated and 1 was being contested.

Overall the analysis of performance indicated that complaint investigation and performance was meeting customer expectations, although given the increasing reporting requirements from the PSOW the Council needed to consider how it would improve performance in relation to how quickly it responded to complaints against target time scales.

A Committee Member stated that in relation to complaints, 67% of cases did not have a Cause for Concern recorded. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that this was a concern and was as a result of the usability of the Oracle CRM system. He added that reporting on a Directorate basis would address the issue of irregular operational scrutiny. This would be progressed in line with the Public Services Ombudsman's suggestion around outcomes and causes, which needed to be properly categorised, so work would be undertaken to refine the list as information would have to be reported externally.

A Committee Member then raised two queries. The first was in relation to the format of the Annual Report which needed to be clearer and in larger font. The second query related to the letter from the Public Services Ombudsman and concerns around Town and Community Councillors that were 'twin-hatted'. The Member queried whether this letter would be sent to the Community Liaison Committee. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated; that he would check whether the letter had been circulated, and that the format of the report would be reviewed for next year's Annual Report.

In reply to a query regarding the length of time to respond to complaints and instances where there had been an extension, a Member queried how many had not met targets, and were there reasons for the delays or was it down to a lack of resources. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that this area needed further work, with complaints at Stage 1 to be responded to within 10 working days, and Stage 2 to respond to within 20 working days. These were the standards used across Wales. It had been recognised that the CRM system could allow for an adjustment to show that there had been agreed to extend the response time. Therefore, consideration was needed as to whether the system could capture this information.

A Committee Member requested further information which provided details of the complaints made to the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office. It was agreed that this would be sent via email. In addition, information regarding Corporate Complaints within target for 2015/16 would also be sent via email.

Having considered the report, it was

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report and appendices be noted.

(2) T H A T the Audit Committee continues to receive an annual update in relation to Corporate Complaints and Compliments.

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

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) To ensure effective monitoring of Corporate Complaints as an indicator of citizen satisfaction with services provided.

(3) In order that Cabinet can be apprised of the report and the comments made by the Audit Committee.”

In conclusion, the Leader advised that the Audit Committee had endorsed the Annual Report following some formatting amendments to the document and that Operational Managers had been provided with a real time dashboard to enable them to better monitor and manage complaints relating to their own services to improve on the Council’s response times.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report and appendices relating to the Corporate Complaints 2018/19 Annual Report be noted.

(2) T H A T the comments and recommendations from the Audit Committee of 3rd September, 2019 be noted.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure effective monitoring of Corporate Complaints as an indicator of citizen satisfaction with services provided.

(2) In order that Cabinet can be apprised of the report and the comments made by the Audit Committee.”

C117 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 1 UPDATE (REF) –

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation previously presented an update on the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks for April 2019 to June 2019 of the risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register as outlined in the Corporate Risk Summary Report to the Audit Committee with the recommendation that the report be referred to Cabinet.

In response to feedback from Audit Committee in February 2019, the risk reporting format had been refreshed and the new report format had been substantially reduced in size and streamlined. Previously the covering risk report incorporated a detailed analysis of Corporate Risks in the covering report alongside a Risk Report and a detailed Risk Register.

The format of the new reporting incorporated the risk analysis in the body of the Risk Summary Report (Annex A) which provided a more concise way of flagging the headline issues and risk considerations. By separating this from the Corporate Risk Register itself, it enabled officers and Members to be able to have a good overview of the status of risks across the Register as well as the emerging issues whilst giving them the ability to drill down to the detail if required.

At the Audit Committee meeting in July 2019, information was requested relating to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and Welsh Community Care Information System. More detailed commentary relating to those risks could be found in Annex A to provide additional information as requested.

In terms of risk reference CR13 – Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) the Committee was advised that good progress had been made in implementing the Risk Management Plan which had resulted in the risk status reducing to medium. Members noted that several of the initial challenges had now been addressed including the transition and migration of information and data from the previous system to WCCIS and issues associated with the functionality and compatibility. In addition, strong progress continued to be made with the cleansing of data/information and a dedicated resource had been assigned to this. Using Intermediate Care Funding, the service had invested both time and resources in upskilling staff in order to build and enhance performance reporting and the service was now able to receive regular management information across all three Social Services Divisions. The service continued to work closely with the ICT Division to further improve the systems functionality and following cleansing, planned to implement the financial functionality of the system. The challenge going forward was the adoption of the system across a regional footprint with the Council partners. At present, the Vale of Glamorgan were the only partner in the region that had adopted and fully implemented WCCIS, as both Cardiff Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board were awaiting approval before proceeding to signing the Deployment Order. In addition, the Council would be looking to implement the financial module in order to use of Residential placements. This work was being coordinated with Powys Council which already used that facility.

With regard to risk reference CR12 – Unauthorised Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, the Operational Manager, Safeguarding & Service Outcome that the numbers awaiting an assessment had not changed and there had been a slight increase due to demographics. Nationally, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards had been recognised as an ongoing challenge across health and social care services. The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act had gained Royal Assent in May 2019 which sought to replace the current system by introducing a simpler process that would involve families more and give quicker access to assessments and so create less of a burden for people, carers, their families and local authorities. The

proposed new scheme was the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). This would require a new approach which would take time to embed, resulting in a change to practice which was a risk as new codes had not yet been developed. The Operational Manager, Safeguarding & Service Outcomes advised that it was anticipated that there would still be a back-log of assessments, but the Council was maintaining good performance and a priority tool had been devised in order to identify and process priority cases.

A Committee Member stated that Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards was a big issue and he queried whether individuals were being fully represented during the process. In addition, the Member felt that more advocacy was required and he questioned whether the Council was using Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards correctly. In reply, the Operational Manager, Safeguarding & Service Outcomes stated that advocacy was part of the assessment process when authorising Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which would involve the identification of a responsible person. In most cases, the Council would use an independent professional advocacy service whose staff would have undertaken a range of IMCA training regarding the rights of individuals. These were professional and not volunteers.

With regards to the issues of resources, the Director highlighted that since the Safeguards had been brought in over six years ago, then it was fair to say that the Council had not allocated sufficient resources. Most Social Services Departments were struggling to find a way to deal with increased demand. The key consideration was although a person maybe waiting for a DoLS assessment, this did not mean that there had not been a full care assessment carried out or a decision taken without the input of a relative or family member. The process was far more intense than sectioning a person under the Mental Health Act. The Director went on and stated that there was a balancing act, as managing personal risk was a legal requirement. The real risk related to a legal challenge being brought against the Council. The Director added that it may be unwise to move staff from other difficult roles.

Further to this query, a Committee Member queried the Red RAG status for DoLS, and asked whether this was a true reflection. In response, the Director stated that it had been recognised that this was a long term challenge which had been a struggle for the Council. There may be an overstatement of the risk, but this was a known issue which needed to be addressed. The Director advised that it was difficult to fully assess the impact as it was hard to anticipate a ruling by the Courts. In addition, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards had been put forward as a cost pressure and as a result additional resources had been allocated. It was important to recognise that attempts had been made to manage the issues, but the challenges were increasing which had also been highlighted by other local authorities; and so the Director considered it right for this to be outlined within the Risk Register, although the rating would be reconsidered alongside other risks at the next opportunity.

In relation to risk reference CR4 – Waste, a Committee Member queried the red RAG status given the 30% reduction in residual waste and as one of the top performance authorities in Wales. In reply, the Head of Policy and Business

Transformation stated that this reflected the savings target attributed to the Department, and due to the complex changes being introduced such as source separation. This was also a reflection of the size and volume of the service, provided on a daily basis. In addition, the Operational Manager – Neighbourhood Services: Operations, outlined that the risk had increased due to escalating costs to process residual waste following a change in recycling provider which had highlighted a recent increase in contaminated waste. This was why the Council had introduced changes to the collection of recycled waste and the removal of plastic bags which had meant that more waste had been sent to the incinerators. The Committee agreed that Waste would be looked at in more detail at the next meeting.

Subsequently, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks for the period April 2019 – June 2019 as outlined in Annex A be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Following consideration of the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks across the Council and to highlight emerging issues and actions taken as outlined in Annex A.
- (2) To ensure Cabinet receive a Quarter 1 position on the Corporate Risk Register and endorses the recommendations contained within this report.”

The Leader noted the Committee’s comments for continuing the current risk levels regarding Brexit, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs) and Waste and that the risk level regarding the Welsh Community Care Information System (WICCS) had reduced to medium.

Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the comments of the Audit Committee of 3rd September, 2019 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks for the period April 2019 – June 2019 as outlined in Annex A be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In order that Cabinet be apprised of the report and the comments made by the Audit Committee.
- (2) To apprise Cabinet of the Quarter 1 position of Corporate Risks across the Council and to highlight emerging issues and actions taken as outlined in Annex A.

C118 VALE OF GLAMORGAN LEISURE STRATEGY (REF) –

The Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance previously presented the report to the Healthy Living & Social Care Scrutiny Committee, the purpose of which was to seek the Committee's approval for the Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy to be forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

Following comments raised at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6th November, 2018, which were subsequently endorsed by Cabinet on 17th December, 2018, the draft Leisure Strategy had been extensively revised by an officer working group. The revised draft had been streamlined and all proposed actions had been challenged to ensure they were relevant and achievable. The officer also added that the revised draft Strategy had been edited to be more user friendly.

The Officer began by drawing Members' attention to paragraph 3.3 of the report which itemised the issues raised by the Committee when the Leisure Strategy was discussed on 6th November, 2018 and the subsequent resolutions in the latest draft.

Issue	Resolution
Single use Sports Grounds	<p>The Strategy did not identify single use sports clubs as being the only opportunity for asset transfers. The emphasis was still in terms of reducing subsidy to facilitate sustainable provision.</p> <p>A merger between bowls clubs in the Barry area had unfortunately fallen through however, the clubs had been very co-operative during the process and hoped to continue operating on an individual basis.</p> <p>Efforts will now move on to other sports clubs, such as Football, Cricket and Rugby with relevant reports being presented to the Committee in the future.</p>
Fees and Charges at odds with increasing participation	The Strategy recommended a more targeted approach to fees and charges, aligned to health and wellbeing outcomes rather than blanket increases in the future.

	A report on the matter would be presented to Committee in the new year which would document the work taken place to date and identify any opportunity to streamline costs.
Railway Walk, Penarth	The matter was only intended to be an example of where an area could be used as a safe cycling space. This had now been removed as a separate action within the Strategy. Safe routes for cycling remained a priority in the Strategy.
Overall Vision of the Strategy	The overall vision had been refocused following comments received at the previous meeting. This was documented on page 4 of the Strategy document attached as Appendix A to the report.
Marketing	New marketing initiatives, both directly from the Council and its main Leisure contractor, were presently being implemented and would continue to be progressed. The Strategy now focused on developing marketing opportunities that would seek to increase participation such as the successful joint working partnership with Run4Wales that had implemented the highly successful Barry 10k.
Inclusion of Play in the Strategy	Play was now identified clearly in the Strategy with reference in the action plan to the Play Sufficiency Plan. A report on this matter was scheduled for the next Committee Meeting in October 2019.
Use of Technology	Whilst there was not a specific action point related to technology the use of new technology such as 'fit bits', digital marketing and fitness trackers was a cross cutting theme that would impact on various actions within the Strategy.

In relation to the issue of single use sports grounds, a Member referred to the historically given figure in that the savings would be around £400,000 and that bowls clubs would be the first to be rolled out. On this point, the Member asked if the £400k was a breakdown of £25k for each of the bowls clubs within the Vale of Glamorgan and noted that this figure seemed much higher than the actual maintenance costs of the clubs which could therefore be misleading to the general public.

In response, the Officer advised that the figure of £25k was worked out by the Council's accountant on the cost of green maintenance, however the Council could not account for the clubs' other maintenance costs. The Officer also

advised that the £400k was divided between the eight bowls clubs at £25k for each club which reflected the Council's costs of maintaining the clubs and not the desired saving figure as, for example, two of the bowls clubs operated artificial greens which would have a slightly lower maintenance cost. The Officer acknowledged the Member's point that the clubs' own costs could be as little as £7k, however he was obliged to action upon the figures provided by the Council's accountant.

The Member then apprised Committee of his recent experience of a dog enclosure that had been set up by a neighbouring Local Authority which was very impressive and a well-received facility. The Member advised that the facility may not have been a significant cost to establish and could be considered a good alternative use for sports grounds and therefore suggested that the Council conduct research into the possibility of establishing dog enclosures within the Vale of Glamorgan.

A Member then wished to enquire whether the bowls club at Cowbridge had been offered to Cowbridge Town Council as a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and whether the bowls club at Rhoose was funded by a precept from Rhoose Community Council. The Officer advised that Rhoose residents did not pay a precept to the Rhoose Bowls Club and a decision was made historically by the Local Authority to give the opportunity to the bowls clubs themselves, in the first instance, to take over ownership. It had been previously suggested to the bowls clubs that they approach their Town and Community Councils.

A Member then requested an update with regards to the Holm View Leisure Centre in Barry, to which the Officer advised that there continued to be a limited service available at the site and that Legacy Leisure was looking to withdraw from the premises, however negotiations would be concluding within the next six to eight weeks, following which the Council would release a statement on the proposed plans for the site.

The Vice-Chairman then wished to ask if the Belle Vue Bowls Club in Penarth had engaged with the Council. The Officer advised that a meeting would be taking place with the Club in the near future, however consideration was only being given to the transfer of the green and not the Club premises. Concerns had been raised with the Club over their membership numbers, however progress was being made.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the changes made to the draft Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy as outlined in the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy be presented to Cabinet for approval.
- (3) T H A T a cost and availability analysis as to the use of dog enclosures in county and town parks within the Vale of Glamorgan be undertaken.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1&2) To allow Cabinet to formally adopt the Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy.
- (3) To ensure the Council has adequately assessed the feasibility of dog enclosure facilities within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture was pleased to present the report and confirmed that the strategy was a now much more user friendly document.

With regards to the Scrutiny Committee's third recommendation, the Member recommended that it be referred to the Vale of Glamorgan's 'Paws in the Vale' initiative which was established to support responsible dog owners with enjoying the Vale of Glamorgan and that any comments be referred back directly to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health stated that it was positive step and pleasing to see the document in its final stage.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the changes made to the draft Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy as outlined in the reference be noted
- (2) T H A T the draft Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the recommendation from the Healthy Living & Social Care Scrutiny Committee in that a cost and availability analysis as to the use of dog enclosures in county and town parks within the Vale of Glamorgan be undertaken be referred to the 'Paws in the Vale' initiative with further comments from the initiative to be referred back to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in the first instance before being referred to Cabinet.

Reasons for recommendations

(1+2) To allow Cabinet to formally adopt the Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy to increase the levels of participation and physical activity in the Vale of Glamorgan encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

(3) To ensure that both Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee receives a response from the 'Paws in the Vale' initiative, as appropriate, regarding the feasibility of dog enclosure facilities within the Vale of Glamorgan.

C119 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION (REF) –

In light of there being no suggested amendments or comments being referred by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee regarding the response to Welsh Government on the Council's National Development Framework (NDF) 2020 – 2040 Consultation Draft, the Leader noted the item and advised that the subject matter would be considered later on the agenda..

C120 PENARTH – CARDIFF BARRAGE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CORRIDOR WELTAG UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS (REF) –

Following the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health leaving the meeting room, the Leader agreed that the reference be considered in conjunction with Agenda Item 13 of the same subject matter. Both agenda items provided Cabinet with an update on progress with the WelTAG Stage Two Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor Study and make recommendations for the next steps to be considered as part of a Stage Three assessment.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport then began by advising that following completion of WelTAG Stage One (May 2019), three options were approved for further consideration as part of a WelTAG Stage Two appraisal, encompassing:

OPTION 1: Active Travel proposals for the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Corridor

OPTION 2: Cosmeston Bus Park and Ride and bus priority link across Cardiff Barrage; and

OPTION 3: Cogan Multi-Modal Sustainable Transport Interchange

Following completion of the WelTAG Stage Two appraisal and the project's Review Group meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2019, the output of the WelTAG Stage Two study recommended the following:

That OPTION 1 was progressed for further appraisal at WelTAG Stage Three. The WelTAG Stage Three appraisal should consider the potential transport benefits of all active travel measures included within the WelTAG Stage Two Outline Business Case report as part of a single option, with an additional recommendation to take forward the Penarth Headland Link (PHL) as part of a separate implementation programme to the other active travel measures (those measures other than PHL) due to the complexity and large-scale context of the PHL proposal, as well as to allow the PHL appraisal to more widely reflect its potential leisure and tourism benefits.

That OPTION 2 was not progressed for further appraisal at WelTAG Stage Three.

That OPTION 3 was progressed for further appraisal at WeITAG Stage Three, and that a partnership approach between Transport for Wales and Vale of Glamorgan Council provided the framework to take forward the appraisal.

The member also referred to the comments of the Scrutiny committee as contained in the reference to Cabinet as follows:

A number of documents were tabled at the Scrutiny meeting:

- An amended Appendix A, which contained changes following a meeting of the review group held on 14th October 2019;
- A letter from the Head of Transport at Cardiff Council containing comments regarding Option 2; and
- 3 written representations from the Sully and Lavernock, Our Future Community Group; including representation highlighting their concerns particularly that the study did not extend to Sully. Secondly, was their letter sent to the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport, dated 8th of August 2019, outlining concerns during the First Phase of the study; and finally, an article from Transport Extra highlighting that Cardiff was already suffering from increased traffic flows from commuters.

The Committee then welcomed Mr M. Fry from Arcadis, who was representing the Vale of Glamorgan has project manager. Mr. Fry then provided a presentation which outlined the WeITAG process and the work carried out to date.

Mr. Fry began by advised that WeITAG used in the appraisal of all transport interventions in Wales contained five key stages and was based around 'Five Case Model'. Currently, the process was at Stage Two, and following completion of WeITAG Stage One (May 2019), three options were approved for further consideration as part of a WeITAG Stage Two appraisal.

Mr. Fry advised that following completion of the WeITAG Stage Two appraisal and the project's Review Group meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2019, the output of the WeITAG Stage Two study recommended the following:

- That OPTION 1 be progressed for further appraisal at WeITAG Stage Three. The WeITAG Stage Three appraisal should consider the potential transport benefits of all active travel measures included within the WeITAG Stage Two Outline Business Case report as part of a single option, with an additional recommendation to take forward the Penarth Headland Link (PHL) as part of a separate implementation programme to the other active travel measures (those measures other than PHL) due to the complexity and large-scale context of the PHL proposal, as well as to allow the PHL appraisal to more widely reflect its potential leisure and tourism benefits. Therefore OPTION 1 would contain two elements. 1A being the smaller active travel measures and 1B being the Penarth Headland Link.
- That OPTION 2 is not progressed for further appraisal at WeITAG Stage Three.
- That OPTION 3 be progressed for further appraisal at WeITAG Stage Three, and that a partnership approach between Transport for Wales and

Vale of Glamorgan Council provides the framework to take forward the appraisal.

For the item, two members of the public had registered to speak.

The first public speaker was Mr R. Thomas, who explained that he was representing the Trustees of Penarth Headland Link and his comments would be limited to Option 1. Mr Thomas advised that the Trust was a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity formed for the sole purpose of facilitating the building of the cycle and walking path known as the Penarth Headland Link. To that end they had delivered pro bono work worth over £250K to pave the way for the project on which the Council now led and which they strongly supported.

Mr Thomas stated that the project had been talked about for over 30 years and was formally approved by Parliament as part of the Cardiff Bay Barrage Act 1993. This gave it planning permission. It was very fully considered as that Act went through Parliament. Since the Trust came together in 2015, Mr. Thomas stated that they had overwhelming support from residents in Penarth and the wider Vale as well as cross party support from Councillors. He explained that everyone was saying that “this was a no-brainer”. Mr. Thomas added that this was a simple project which would have a transformational impact. As well as promoting active travel, it would also provide economic benefit by linking the Capital City to the Wales Coastal Path. Mr. Thomas advised that there was a body evidence about the enormous benefit to any local economy of a long-distance footpath or a coastal path, but this short stretch was unique in its location and potential.

Mr. Thomas highlighted that several of the Esplanade shops in Penarth had closed, and people who had walked over the Barrage from Cardiff would turn back when faced with the climb up the headland. The link would therefore lead them to the Pier and the Esplanade, offering choices including Alexandra Park and the Town Centre, as well as opening active travel options to Barry and the wider Vale. This would show the Vale of Glamorgan as a progressive Council that could seize and opportunity and make it happen and perhaps bringing the hugely successful Cardiff Half Marathon fully into the Vale along with walkers and cyclists who turn back to the City. Mr. Thomas further outlined that the Link would open up a cycling route to work in Cardiff from Barry as well as Sully and Penarth and vice versa. This would be part of a sustainable transport corridor and be a major contributor to active travel. Mr. Thomas commented that the Trust had illustrated its work with examples from other parts of the world including Canada and New Zealand, and he stated that when the Link is built the world would come to the Vale of Glamorgan to see what the Council had achieved.

Finally, Mr. Thomas explained that over the past 5 years, the Trust had been into enormous detail in making sure that the Link could be built, managed and used as proposed and had looked at every factor. These included safety, cost and the best location as well as management factors which were all set out in the documents supplied to the Council. He stated that the Trust were well placed to assure the Scrutiny Committee that the current plans were sound and that the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole would benefit from prompt and efficient implementation. The intention was that would be at no cost to the Council.

In providing some points of clarification to the Scrutiny Committee, Mr. Thomas outlined the following:

- There would no expiry date for the planning permission;
- The Link would cost an estimated £10m, but the actual cost was difficult to predict as it would depend on which scheme was agreed. Welsh Government were aware of this and had not dismissed the project;
- There would be the possibility of commercial opportunities at both ends of the Link; and
- Cliff erosion in the area had been considered, with the route of the Link being 15 to 35 meters away from any cliff fall zone. The Link would therefore be sufficiently far enough away.

The second public speaker was Town Councillor Mike Cuddy, who explained that he had represented Penarth Town Council on the Review Group and also as a Trustee on the Pier Pavilion.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the forces behind the sustainable corridor approach were not new and reflected in the peoples vote for the Millennium Lottery Award for the Pont-y-Werin Bridge. So a lot of the heavy work had already been carried out and hence the good cost benefit ratio for Option 1A. He then referred to the Penarth Place Plan, advising that during 2013/2014, Penarth Town Council had engaged with the public on the priorities for a plan to guide initial planning for a place plan. One issue identified as a priority by the public was the links across Penarth and the difficulty posed in exploiting the opportunity provided by the Barrage. This would encourage visitors and residents up across Penarth Head to the Town Centre and Esplanade.

Councillor Cuddy then commented on the methodology used, and stated that for the large scale investment schemes there was previously a great deal of faith placed on quantitative cost benefit studies, this has been modified by Governments in the Greenbook and the 5 case model and the approach here reflected that. This all still relied on good data and sound assumptions. The WeITAG methodology used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, and in this study, Councillor Cuddy stated that the assumptions and data were quite transparent, but often based upon quite small survey samples and the model shift from the car 'small'. In making assumptions the Government had warned against 'Optimism Bias' that could arise in how the options were packaged and to the degree of confidence placed on assumptions. So there was the tendency to rely on history in making forward projections. Councillor Cuddy commented that the report admitted the weakness of some of the survey data and looked to do further studies. He stated that in his view there had been 'Optimism Bias' in the context of the growing awareness of harm and this should be segmented to explore age range differences. Councillor Cuddy added that it was still the case that if you used money values they tended to trump qualitative statements such as the cost benefit ratio used here and if you spend hardly anything any benefit was large. This too should be addressed.

With regard to the Peer Review, Councillor Cuddy suggested, that given the number of assumptions that a degree of peer review be introduced, either through another consultancy or disinterested units in the present consultancies. Finally, Councillor Cuddy stated that there was very little knowledge of the technical issues for the Penarth Headland Link. If Options 1A and 1B were to be successful, then different work methodology was required. He also stated that in principle, Penarth Town Council were not against any of the options.

In coming back to comments made by Councillor Cuddy, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that more technical detail would be provided as part of the Business Case. She highlighted that should costs go up, then the WeITAG process could go back and forth on proposals at any stage. She agreed that more work was needed to ensure that the correct data was available.

In clarifying the Cogan Interchange, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that page 23 of Appendix A best illustrated what was being proposed. This was more than just a Park and Ride scheme, but the Business Case needed to look at what options would work best, and the local community would be able to make comments and contributions.

With regard to the splitting of Option 1 into 1A and 1B, a Committee Member queried whether this made the Penarth Headland Link less likely. In response, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that this would give 1B more focus and allow schemes under 1A to be progressed more quickly.

A Committee Member stated that the most important aspect of Option 1 was the Headland Link, and the Member queried the overall vision. The Member also queried whether consideration had been given to the accessibility of the scheme for older people and people with a physical impairment. In terms of the overall vision, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that bus service over the Barrage was within the Council's Local Development Plan, but there had been public concern regarding the impact on active travel routes. Cardiff Council had expressed the view that a bus link across the Barrage was still a preferable option. What had not been fully considered was the introduction of Electric Buses or Travel Pods, similar to those used at Heathrow Airport. Therefore, other more sustainable options were available other than a diesel bus.

In relation to Option 2, and a bus priority link across Cardiff Barrage, the Committee agreed that further work should be undertaken to assess the full range of transport options available, and to assess accessibility for older people and people with a physical impairment.

A Committee Member commented on consultation and engagement, stating that results could be skewed by the activity of pressure groups.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage Two Study relating to improving sustainable connectivity through the corridor between Penarth and Cardiff Barrage be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be advised that the Scrutiny Committee supports the progression of the recommended options (Options 1A, 1B and 3) as outlined within the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage Two study.
- (3) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the Scrutiny Committee's view in relation to Option 1 (1A and 1B) - active travel proposals for the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Corridor, that emphasis to be placed on the active travel schemes that will be progressed under Option 1A.
- (4) T H A T Cabinet be advised that in relation to Options 1A and 1B, assessment should be undertaken of the of the accessibility for older people and people with a physical impairment.
- (5) T H A T Cabinet be advised that in relation to Option 2 and a bus priority link across Cardiff Barrage, that an assessment of the full range of transport options be undertaken along with an assessment of the accessibility for older people and people with a physical impairment.
- (6) T H A T Cabinet agree that a report of the further assessment of Option 2 be provided to the Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To update Committee on progress made on the scheme.
- (2) To support progression of the Study and specific options, 1A, 1B and 3 to WelTAG Stage Three in principle.
- (3) In order to ensure strong emphasis to the active travel schemes contained within Option 1A.
- (4) To assess how accessible active travel schemes are for older people and people with a physical impairment.
- (5) To provide an assessment of all modes of transport associated with a bus link over the Barrage, and to assess the accessibility of such options for older people and people with a physical impairment.
- (6) To report the findings the Scrutiny Committee of the further assessment undertaken of Option 2.”

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport summarised that the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Options Appraisal as set out in officer recommendations however, raised an additional recommendation with regards to a bus priority link across Cardiff Barrage in that an assessment of the full range of transport options be undertaken along with an assessment of the accessibility for older people and people with a physical impairment.

The Member then added that the future WelTAG Stage 3 project and traffic on Cardiff Barrage were two separate issues and that it was unfortunate that the Council had received relevant transport comments quite late in the process from both the Cardiff Harbour Authority and Cardiff Council. The Member therefore moved that the recommendations as set out at Agenda Item 13 be agreed and that a fifth recommendation be added in relation to the Council undertaking an active travel research trial for Cardiff Barrage.

The Deputy Leader then expressed her concerns that the report recommended to only progress Options 1 and 3 and that she was relaxed about the recommendation not to develop a Park and Ride facility at Cosmeston as she felt that should there prove a need, such a facility could be brought forward organically.

Therefore, her main concerns related to infrastructure and inequality. Regarding infrastructure, the Council had always stated that infrastructure had to be a consideration in relation to any development and it was always a fine balance. However, the Council could not deny that local people need homes. New schools, roads and other facilities had been developed across the Vale and a new school and open space had been allocated as part of the Cosmeston allocation in the LDP but the geography of South East Vale made the development of roads hugely difficult and so improvements in public transport and Active Travel had to be a priority. Therefore, the Council could not walk away from an opportunity to improve public transport in the area.

With regards to inequality, the Deputy Leader advised that it was common knowledge that men and women travel differently. Men use cars, bikes and trains whereas women more commonly use buses and walk. Therefore, the type of journeys they make are very different. Again due to the geography of the area, buses sit in traffic queues alongside cars so there was no benefit from using buses unless you did not have access to a car.

A cross barrage service during peak hours had the potential to take hundreds of cars off the overcrowded Merrie Harrier and Barons Court junctions but it needed to be piloted to see if it would work. The Deputy leader then acknowledged that running a service across the barrage was a complex challenge but it was not impossible if the Council embraced technology already available. In summary, an opportunity to pilot a fast cross barrage peak hours service should not be discounted and it should be trialled as soon as possible to provide a solid evidence base for future decision making.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the progress made on the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage 2 Study relating to improving sustainable connectivity with a corridor between Penarth and Cardiff Barrage alongside the comments received from the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 16th October, 2019 be noted.

(2) T H A T the content of the reference and relevant appendices be noted in collaboration with the same matter at Agenda Item No. 13 of the agenda.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) To update Cabinet on progress made on the scheme.

C121 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE WORKING INITIATIVES UPDATES (L) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to provide an update on the Council's Strategic Collaborative Working Initiatives and began by stating that the 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 could have in tackling complex issues.

Cabinet had previously received a quarterly update on collaborative work that the Corporate Management Team had deemed to be strategically significant with many more operational examples of collaboration underway across the authority.

The Leader then drew Member's attention to the Compendium of Strategic Working Initiatives attached at Appendix A to the report which provided an oversight of the strategic level collaborative working activity in which the Council was involved, and captured the detail of the various initiatives underway.

The Leader also referred to the Government Green Paper consultation document, Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People, that was issued on 20th March 2018 which set out Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales, specifying the desire to create larger, stronger authorities to secure the financial viability of Councils, ensure the sustainability of services and provide a platform for transformation and delivery and outcomes for people and confirmed that a formal response had be given by the Council to which a further response from Welsh Government was pending.

Following the comment raised by the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health that both the way and with whom the Council currently collaborated with, on a

local scale, was testament to a regional working level not being in the best interests of the Vale of Glamorgan, the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services commended the expertise of the Council Staff making the current levels of collaboration possible.

In conclusion, the Leader highlighted that a draft Local Government (Wales) Bill was expected to be introduced in November 2019, with Royal Assent by the end of the summer 2020. In partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Welsh Government had established a working group to inform the development of the Bill and it was anticipated that the group would continue to meet to develop the guidance accompanying the Bill in parallel with its passage through the Assembly. The guidance would include details of regional collaborative arrangements, in the form of Corporate Joint Committees and that further information **may** be brought to Cabinet as the Bill and guidance were developed.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the strategic collaborative working initiatives currently in place to support the delivery and development of Council services and the Council's well-being outcomes and objectives be noted.
- (2) That the update report be circulated by e-mail to all Vale of Glamorgan Council Elected Members and members of the Public Services Board.
- (3) That further updates be provided to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, and in accordance with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

Reason for decision

- (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.

C122 STRONG COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND (L) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide Cabinet with an update on the Strong Communities Grant Fund that had now been in

operation for three years and therefore due for renewal and to seek approval for the award of funding from the latest round of applications.

The establishment of the Strong Communities Fund was approved by Cabinet in April 2017 and the Fund was intended to streamline the way in which community grant funding was managed by the Council and to encourage innovative and creative use of a range of funding to support community initiatives in line with the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Outcomes.

The Leader added that the report provided Cabinet with a summary of progress made in implementing the scheme and made recommendations in respect of the latest round of projects that could be funded by the Council

The Deputy Leader then drew Member's attention to the Strong Communities Grant Fund progress report, as at October 2019, as contained at Appendix B of the papers and noted that the document was comprehensive regarding project details. In particular, the Member referred to page 19 of the document and noted the success of the Gibby Green Fingers Group that had recently been awarded Green Flag status which was an excellent example of successful community projects enhancing the local community. The Member also referred to page 15 of the document which provided details of the Cowbridge Charter Trust that was designed to improve access to and usage of important community assets and had recently completed restoration of the town walls and old hall garden in Cowbridge which had made a significant impact to the ascetics of the area.

In conclusion, the Leader stated that the Strong Communities Grant Fund provided the Council with the opportunity to support organisations with relatively small amounts of funding but that had maximum impact and it was pleasing to see that the Council was also building relationships with regards to different funding sources such as the National Lottery.

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, Appendix B and Appendix C be noted.
- (2) T H A T grant funding of up to £196,407.49 be approved and that the Evaluation Panel's recommendations as outlined in Appendix A be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the remaining unallocated sum of £25,333.00 be retained and used as part of a new funding stream for the Strong Communities Grant Fund, details of which would be subject to a further Cabinet report before the end of December 2019.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide Cabinet with an update on the Strong Communities Grant Fund given that Appendix B provides details and updates on projects supported in previous Strong Communities Grant Fund bidding rounds and Appendix C provides information on committed and remaining funds.
- (2) To enable Strong Communities Funding to be awarded to submissions as outlined in Appendix A attached to the report in line with the Council's Constitution and the scope of the scheme.
- (3) In order to put in place a new round of funding under the Strong Communities Grant Fund arrangement.

C123 HOUSING LEASEHOLDER EXTERNAL WORKS SCHEME (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, the Leader advised that the positive report set out proposed contract award arrangements for the Housing Leaseholder External Works Scheme and the need to award the Housing Leaseholder External Works Scheme.

Following confirmation of the Council achieving the Wales Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) in 2018 the authority had now moved into the maintenance phase of WHQS. As a result, there were a number of components that would continue to deteriorate and age and would need replacing to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, some of which had been identified for replacement/refurbishment during 2019/20. There were a range of WHQS external maintenance works that had been identified on leasehold blocks which included the installation of external wall insulation (EWI) as a preferred solution to help improve the properties thermal efficiency and eradicate building defects which promoted condensation or damp.

The Leader went on to state that The Housing Development and Investment Team had identified a package of works at 27 Blocks of flats, which consisted of the installation of EWI and associated works including: the extension of roof verges, replacement of fascia's, soffits and rainwater goods, asbestos removal and alterations to gas flues.

Within 21 of the 27 blocks identified as requiring works, there were 21 leaseholder properties. The blocks contained between one to three leaseholders within a block of four. Consequently, all work to the flats had been subject to the requirements of Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (revised under Section 151 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002).

In conclusion, the Leader highlighted that prior to tendering the identified works it was necessary for the Council to follow requirements set out in law that protected leaseholder's rights during the procurement of building maintenance/refurbishment work. Subsequently, 'Section 20' letters were provided to all Leaseholders,

notifying them of the Council's intention to undertake repair and improvement works to the blocks in which their properties were located.

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 contents of the Part I report be noted, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To advise of the current position with this particular Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) maintenance contract.

C124 CHANNEL VIEW, MARCROSS CESSPOOL REPLACEMENT OPTIONS APPRAISAL (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the Channel View, Marcross Cesspool Options Appraisal and to refer Cabinet to the Part II report outlining the financial details associated with the scheme later on the agenda.

The Member added that the matter had been a long standing topic of consideration for the Council and that the report advised of progress with the options appraisal for the sewerage treatment at properties in Channel View, Marcross. The options appraisal had identified a number of options for the future treatment of foul water from properties at Channel View, Marcross which were also detailed in the Part II report later on the agenda.

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 contents of the Part I report be noted, with the view to approving the preferred replacement options for the cesspool at Channel View, Marcross within the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To advise of the current position with the Marcross Cesspool options appraisal process and to make progress in relation to the same.

C125 PENARTH TO CARDIFF BARRAGE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CORRIDOR WELTAG STAGE 2 (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The item was considered in conjunction with Agenda Item 8.

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 comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee from its 16th October 2019 meeting, as set out at agenda item 8, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the progress made on the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage Two Study relating to improving sustainable connectivity through the corridor between Penarth and Cardiff Barrage be noted.
- (3) T H A T the progression of the recommended options (Options 1 and 3) outlined within the Penarth to Cardiff Barrage Sustainable Transport Corridor WelTAG Stage Two study be approved taking into account the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the Officer's report with relevant appendices.
- (4) T H A T the in relation to Option 2 and a bus priority link across Cardiff Barrage, that a an assessment of the full range of transport options be undertaken along with a fast cross barrage peak hours service pilot in collaboration with the Harbour Authority and Cardiff Council.

Reasons for decision

- (1) To take into account and consider the views of Scrutiny Committee (Environment and Regeneration) prior to a decision be made.
- (2) To update Cabinet on progress made on the scheme.
- (3) To support progression of the Study and specific options to WelTAG Stage Three.
- (4) To ensure that an accessibility assessment is undertaken for all potential service users and that a solid evidence base is collated to inform future decision making.

C126 RATIONALISATION OF CESSPOOL MANAGEMENT AT CHANNEL VIEW (MARCROSS) AND CROFT JOHN (PENMARK) (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that the Council was currently managing a cesspool emptying service at Channel View, Marcross and Croft John, Penmark and that an assessment into alternative sewage disposal arrangements was underway for the Channel View cesspool and it was proposed that a similar assessment was undertaken for the Croft John cesspool.

The Member added that the matter had been a long standing topic of consideration for the Council and that there were issues with the recovery of costs for the emptying of the aforementioned cesspools as they presented an expensive option for sewage disposal when compared to conventional mains sewerage options. Further details relating to the recovery of costs were contained in the Part II report included later on the agenda.

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 Part I report be noted and considered in conjunction with the associated report in Part II of the agenda.
- (2) T H A T the Director of Environment and Housing Services be authorised to commission an options appraisal and viability assessment, funded from the Housing Revenue Account, considering alternative sewerage solutions at Croft John, Penmark.
- (3) T H A T a further report be received by Cabinet in due course identifying the options and relevant issues arising from the analysis.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To apprise Cabinet of the current position regarding the cesspits at Marcross and Penmark
- (2) To inform further more detailed deliberation.
- (3) To enable consideration of any alternative long term sewerage solutions

**C127 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (NDF) 2020 – 2040
CONSULTATION DRAFT – RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT (LRP)
SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek endorsement of the response to the Draft National Development Framework (NDF) for submission to Welsh Government by the 1st November, 2019.

The Member began by advising that the report set out the content of the Draft NDF, having regard to its policies and proposals and how they affected the Vale of Glamorgan, the South East Wales region and the rest of Wales.

A response to the consultation had been prepared and was attached at Appendix A for Cabinet's consideration and where appropriate the Council had endorsed the content of the NDF. However, the consultation response raised a number of concerns. In particular:

- The lack of content and consideration of the Vale of Glamorgan and its role in the South East Wales Region;
- The deliverability of the NDF and its proposed outcomes;
- The overly prescriptive nature of the NDF in some policies / proposals (e.g. Green Belts);
- The omission of some key issues e.g. M4 congestion; and
- The lack of evidence supporting the NDF and its implications for Strategic Development Plan (SDP) / Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation

The Cabinet Member then highlighted that the NDF text ignored the pressures that Cardiff placed on the Vale of Glamorgan and the potential need for a green belt on the western side of Cardiff. Therefore, the Council's response made additional comments on the prescriptive Policy on Green Belts and the effect on the region.

In conclusion, the Member advised that although the framework was a national response, each Local Authority would be inputting individually to which the Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control added that the Council's response would be written from a Vale of Glamorgan point of view with particular regard to the Vale's relationship with Cardiff.

The Leader also reiterated that the matter had been considered by both the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Community Liaison Committee with no formal recommendations being raised by either Committee.

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 Consultation Response at Appendix A for submission to the Welsh Government by the 1st November, 2019 be approved.
- (2) That the use of article 14.14.2 (ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of Resolution (1) above.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide Welsh Government with the Council's comments on the draft National Development Framework.
- (2) To ensure submission to the Welsh Government by the 1st November, 2019 and, given that the Scrutiny Committee have given prior consideration to the report without comment.

C128 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED WAS URGENT

–

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chairman had decided was urgent for the reason stated in brackets following the minute heading be considered.

**C129 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN
2020 – 25 (L) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –
(Urgent by reason of the need to obtain Cabinet approval in sufficient time to
allow meaningful consultation to be undertaken on the draft Corporate Plan
2020-25)**

The Leader advised that the report set out how the Council had developed the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 and proposals for consulting on the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 from 22nd October, 2019 – 10th December, 2019, including the involvement of all Scrutiny Committees, the Council's partners and the public.

In developing the draft Corporate Plan, the Council had undertaken extensive engagement and considered a range of information and data to inform the development of the Plan. This included:

- The Public Opinion Survey;
- Big Conversation with Staff ;
- Performance data;
- Key Population data for the Vale;
- Consideration by Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Performance & Resources);
- Partnership activities and priorities;

- Stakeholder workshop;
- Discussions with the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum;
- Corporate Risks;
- Budget consultation; and
- Discussions at Community Liaison Committee and Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

The Leader also added that in developing the draft Corporate Plan and therefore the Council's priorities for the next five years it had considered:

- what Vale of Glamorgan residents had told us;
- the Council's knowledge and understanding of the local area and the local community;
- the Council's statutory duties;
- the resources available to the Council;
- best practice and what the Council knows works locally;
- the views of Council partners;
- commitments the Council had made to deliver with its partners e.g. the Public Services Board Well-being Plan;
- the Council's achievements in delivering the previous Corporate Plan;
- advice and support from the Future Generations, Welsh Language, Children's, Older People, and Equalities and Human Rights Commissioners; and
- advice and recommendations from the Council's regulators and inspectors.

The report also included the timetable for reviewing the consultation findings and the development of a final draft for consideration by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Full Council prior to the publication of the new Corporate Plan in April 2020 at paragraph 2.23.

In developing the draft Plan, it was proposed that in response to feedback received that a new approach to corporate planning be adopted by producing an Annual Delivery Plan to accompany the overarching five-year plan and that a more detailed Annual Delivery Plan would be published each Spring that detailed the key activities that would be undertaken to deliver on the commitments in the Corporate Plan. The Leader added that the process would directly inform individual Service Plans which were also produced annually and contained annual performance measures and targets. The Council had a robust and well-respected performance management framework. The Leader with Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team would continue to monitor performance and ensure progress against the four objectives. The Council's Scrutiny Committees would regularly

scrutinise performance to ensure that the Council was delivering its vision and the necessary outcomes to improve local well-being.

In conclusion, the Leader drew Cabinet's attention to the Council's proposed new Well-being Objectives, at paragraph 2.12 of the report which were a requirement under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and framed how the Council would contribute to the national Well-being goals and deliver its continued vision for Strong Communities with a Bright Future.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport then commended the work already completed under the current corporate plan and in particular the staggering amount of new trees planted as part of the new roadworks replacing the 5 mile lane.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health then also commended the amount of public consultation that had been undertaken to date and the fact that the draft Corporate Plan was built around communities rather than directorates. It was also pleasing to see that the draft plan document itself was easy to read.

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 Corporate Plan (contained in Appendix A), summary (contained in Appendix B) and Equality Impact Scoping Assessment (Appendix C) for consultation as outlined in this report be approved.

(2) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to all relevant Scrutiny Committees for their consideration in the November 2019 cycle of meetings as part of the consultation process.

(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 to enable the consultation process on the draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to commence from 22nd October, 2019.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Council has an effective and up to date Corporate Plan which reflects the work being undertaken across the Council to improve the quality of life in the Vale of Glamorgan.

(2) To enable timely and meaningful consultation and scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25.

(3) To enable the maximum amount of time for the consultation process to run and for the findings of the same to be fully considered and scrutinised prior to the

meeting of Council in February 2020. The consultation plan outlined in this report makes provision for the draft Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to be considered by all five Scrutiny Committees as part of the consultation process during November 2019

C130 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.

C131 HOUSING LEASEHOLDER EXTERNAL WORKS SCHEME (HBS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 14) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, the Leader presented the report to advise Cabinet of the proposed contract award arrangements for the Housing Leaseholder External Works 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 award of the contract to Thomas CMS Holdings Ltd. for the value of £1,453,789.70 be approved.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services and the Director of Environment and Housing Services, to prepare and execute a JCT intermediate 2016 contract with Thomas CMS Holdings Ltd.

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.

**C132 CHANNEL VIEW, MARCROSS CESSPOOL REPLACEMENT –
 OPTIONS APPRAISAL (HBS) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 13
 AND 14) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that the report brought to the attention of Cabinet the outcome of the Channel View, Marcross sewerage treatment options appraisal and sought approval to consult with all affected residents regarding the results of the option appraisal. Subsequently, a further report would be required address the results of the consultation.

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 its supporting documentation to assist in decision making be noted.
- (2) T H A T approval be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing to undertake consultation with private residents on the sewerage treatment options.
- (3) T H A T a further report be presented to Cabinet following the resident consultation detailing the resident's preferred option, the relevant financial considerations and any other issues which may arise from the consultation.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure Cabinet is aware of the reasons for the outcome of the Channel View, Marcross cesspool options appraisal and viability study.
- (2) To ensure all residents and key stakeholders associated with the Channel View, Marcross cesspool are consulted in relation to the options available along with associated costs for each replacement installation.
- (3) To enable an informed decision to be made in relation to the progression of the preferred option for the replacement works

**C133 RATIONALISATION OF CESSPOOL MANAGEMENT AT
 CHANNEL VIEW (MARCROSS) AND CROFT JOHN (PENMARK) (NST)
 (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 14) (SCRUTINY –
 ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION)**

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the report, the purpose of which was to inform Cabinet of progress implementing a cesspool emptying regime at Channel View, Marcross and Croft John, Penmark

and to seek the necessary approvals to either write-off or recover outstanding debts at both sites.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, seek recovery of the outstanding debts relating to the provision of the cesspool emptying service from 1st April, 2016 and that authority be given to write off the cesspool emptying costs which have accrued since 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2016.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To apprise Cabinet of the current position regarding the cesspits at Marcross and Penmark.
- (2) To allow the recovery of outstanding emptying and management of cesspools costs incurred by the Council from 1st April 2016, and to address the issue of outstanding costs incurred from 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2016.