

CABINET

Minutes of the remote meeting held on 27th July, 2020.

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.

C306 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July, 2020 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

C307 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

There were no declarations of interest received from Cabinet Members. The Leader noted that the Managing Director and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services would leave the meeting for this report as both have an interest in the report in terms of election responsibilities.

C308 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20 (L/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, advising that the year end revenue position was breakeven after net transfers to reserves of £2.555m, made up of £0.822m drawn down from the Council Fund and £3.377m transferred into specific reserves. The Council Fund now stood at £12.814m as at 31st March 2020.

A revenue savings target of £3.02m was set for 2019/20, however savings of £2.383m (79%) were actually achieved in year .

The Housing Revenue Account was also able to increase the level of its ringfenced reserve to £7.948m after achieving a £5.280m surplus.

There was capital expenditure during the year of £53.144m.

Following the end of the financial year, Cabinet are provided with provisional outturn figures for the Council. It was anticipated that the Statement of Accounts would be approved by Council during September 2020, which will follow the audit by Audit Wales. The Leader added the caveat that dates could change should there be a new spike in infections connected with COVID-19, and if this were to be the case, the matter would be reconsidered accordingly.

Council Fund

Council, on 8th March, 2019, agreed the Council's budget requirement for 2019/20. This represented budgeted net expenditure for the Authority of £226.098m. Total expenditure was to be financed by Revenue Support Grant (£110.310m), National Non-Domestic Rates contribution (£41.76m) and Council Taxpayers (£74.028m). The Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) for the year was £228.101m. The Leader noted that the Vale of Glamorgan's spend was £2m short of the SSA, which in terms of Council Tax would mean another 3.4% on the budget.

Although the budget resulted in a break-even position, some Service Areas had to draw upon their own reserves in order to balance their budgets within the last financial year. Details of this were available on Page 4 of the report which highlighted the net use of reserves by each Directorate.

There was a great deal of detail in the final report to inform Members of the financial position of each service at the end of the financial year. In summary, the position by Directorate was:

- **Learning and Skills**

There was an overspend in the Service, resulting in a requirement to draw on reserves at the end of the year. The main pressures concerned school transport costs, Additional Learning Needs (ALN) due to out of county placements and pupils with complex needs.

During the year, schools also had to draw down a net sum of £1.84m from their balances during 2019/20 leaving £839k to be carried forward at year end. 48 schools drew down from their balances to fund shortfalls in 2019/20.

All the savings identified for Learning and Skills, totalling £166k, were achieved.

- **Social Services**

Overall, the Service was underspent. There were cost pressures within Children and Family Services due to the high costs of placements for children with significant complex behaviour. That position was offset during the year by a £500k grant from Welsh Government, as well as from an underspend in Adult Services. The favourable balance achieved has been set aside and put into legislative changes reserves.

The Service was also required to make savings of £545k during the year and £40k of that total was not achieved but should be achieved in 2020/21 as some Services were unable to be delivered due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- **Environment and Housing**

The net position for the Directorate was a balanced budget, however they did have to draw down heavily on reserves to achieve that position. This had been reported during the year and was due to factors such as costs for treatment of

recycling which had increased steadily over the last couple of years since China banned elements of recycling such as plastic into the country.

The Directorate were also required to make savings of £1.14m, of which £560k had been achieved. That pressure was acknowledged when the Revenue Budget had been set and an additional £400k was agreed to be added to their base budget.

- **Managing Director and Resources**

Underspends in this area had contributed to the regeneration fund and LDP reserve. In terms of the general policy and Council Tax, in November 2019 a probable underspend in this area was shown at £6.5m and it was agreed that £4m be transferred to the Council Fund. When accounts were finally closed, £4.959m was transferred into specific reserves, including Neighbourhood Services, Education, etc., the detail of which could be found in paragraph 2.33 of the report.

The Council Tax surplus for 2019/20 was £2.637m which was in line with predicted figures reported in November.

- **Housing Revenue Account**

Details regarding the Housing Revenue Account were shown in Appendix 2 to the report, with an outturn for the year of a £5.28m surplus against the set budget. This was different to the position noted in November, mainly due to a reduced spend in Capital Programme as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Capital

The overall position on the revised 2019/20 Capital Programme was an underspend of £17.154m for the year. There was a slippage of £13m which had been approved using the Managing Director's Emergency Powers. The variances were listed in detail within the report.

Reserves

Attached at Appendix 4 to the report was a schedule showing the Council's reserves as at 31st March, 2020. The table below showed the net movements in reserves for 2019/20 relating to the Council Fund and for specific reserves.

On 10th January, 2020 Welsh Government issued a grant offer letter to the Council providing additional capital funding of £1.905m for schools. The grant funding could be used in 2019/20 to fund existing capital schemes with the displaced funding being used in 2020/21 for investment in the improvement of schools.

The levels of reserves were detailed in the report and had been considered adequate for the Council. It was further noted that there were large commitments against these reserves for future years and to support the Capital Programme. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in the Council having to support new services and new ways of working in order to provide support for residents in

the Vale of Glamorgan. Welsh Government was providing support, but it was noted that some of the additional costs would have to be met by the Council, e.g. ICT provision.

There were savings of £3.2m set for 2019/20 of which 79% were achieved, shown in Appendix 5 to the report. Funding to the Capital Programme was detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report.

Councillor Gray highlighted the Social Services revenue budget position as during the year it was predicted that there would be an overspend, but at closure of accounts there was now an underspend. The underspend would now be used as part of the COVID-19 response and was vital to remain within Social Services budgets to focus on key requirements and support the services being offered.

Councillor Burnett referred to paragraph 2.10 of the report on page 6 and pressures concerning ALN within the education budget and supporting children with complex needs. On occasion the facilities to support those children did not exist in the Vale of Glamorgan but were available out of area which added costs to the budget. The development of The Loft and The Burrow provisions at Gladstone Primary School had allowed support of children with complex needs with the Vale of Glamorgan and avoided movement elsewhere. This had been supported by Ysgol y Deri and recognised as the first trauma informed practice school in Wales.

In terms of the Capital Programme listed as Appendix C to the report, there was only a £202k difference between the budget as agreed and the budget going forward within the total education budget of over £68m. Some work had slipped as it had to be completed during school holidays and would be moved to the current school holiday. There had been some additional funding for school asset renewal from Welsh Government and elsewhere which enabled schools to have repairs undertaken such as new boilers for fuel efficiency.

The Leader added that in terms of the revenue budget, both Social Services and Education made up nearly three quarters of the total budget.

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 report and the financial measures taken and proposed be approved.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.

(2) To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.

C309 BUDGET STRATEGY 2021/22 (L/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the Budget Strategy report which outlined the process and timetable for setting the 2021/22 budget.

Cabinet were recommended to approve the Budget Strategy for 2021/22, including the requirement for Directors to prepare initial revenue budgets in accordance with a timetable agreed by the Head of Finance, that Directors be requested to continue to progress the Reshaping Services Programme.

Cabinet were also asked to approve the timetable on page 2 of the report for the 2021/22 Budget Process, subject to any amendments being required to meet the statutory deadline, as a result of changes in the timing of Welsh Government (WG) settlement announcements.

Timetable for the 2021/22 Budget Process	To be completed no later than
Cabinet consider the initial Budget proposals	16 th November 2020
Lead Scrutiny Committee responds to consultation and makes recommendations on Budget proposals	16 th December 2020
Cabinet makes its final proposals on the Budget	8 th February 2021
Meeting of Council to consider budget and Council Tax resolution	1 st March 2021

As part of the final settlement figures for 2020/21, WG had not provided any indication of what the settlement would be for 2021/22. The Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2020/21 modelled a flat line settlement for 2021/22 and 2022/23. This was believed to be prudent however with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic it was difficult to assess what the settlement would be for the coming years and could again be challenging. Going forward, WG might also review the funding it provided via specific grants. There also remained uncertainty surrounding Britain's exit from the European Union. This uncertainty did not provide any basis for sound forward planning

The establishment of the National Living Wage introduced from April 2016 continued to have a significant impact upon the Council, with further increases proposed over the coming years and also the potential for higher levels of pay awards than seen in recent years. In addition, the consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and welfare reform changes could have a knock-on effect for Councils in terms of higher arrears, increased homelessness and greater demand for social services and other intervention.

As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2020/21 it was considered that if Council Tax continued to increase by 4.9%, this could result in the possible total shortfall in funding for 2021/22 and 2022/23 of £10.596m. This level of saving would, however, need to be reviewed as part of the next Medium Term Financial Plan, which would be presented to Cabinet in September 2020. With the required savings being at this level and the current conditions the Council was operating under, it would be a very difficult period for the Council and it would need to not only review the way services were delivered from a financial perspective, but it would need to consider the best way to provide services as the country came out of lockdown and assess future needs.

The Budget Strategy for 2021/22 proposed that in order to establish a baseline, services should prepare initial revenue budgets based on the cost of providing the current level of service and approved policy decisions and include the existing efficiency targets. This meant the cost of price increases and any allowable pay awards should be included as advised by the Head of Finance.

Increases to budgets approved during the course of a financial year could restrict the freedom the Council had to allocate its resources to priorities during the following budget cycle when it was aware of all the competing demands.

Consequently:

- Supplementary estimates would only increase the base budget if Council had given specific approval to this effect. Increases met by virement within a year would not be treated as committed growth;
- Directors should find the cost of increments and staff changes from their base budget unless the relevant specific approval had been given for additional funding;
- The effect of replacing grant from outside bodies that had discontinued would not be treated as committed growth. In addition, before any project or initiative that was to be met either wholly or partly by way of grant may proceed, the exit strategy must be approved;
- Certain items of unavoidable committed growth would continue, and these included the effect of interest changes and the financing cost of the Capital Programme, increases in taxes, increases in levies and precepts charged by outside bodies and changes to housing benefits net expenditure;
- Services would be expected to achieve efficiencies already approved by Cabinet as part of the 2020/21 final budget proposals and Directors were asked to continue to work on identifying additional efficiencies; and
- It was envisaged that the costs of service development would need to be met from within the respective Directorates.

Having regard to the above, it was therefore proposed in respect of the 2021/22 Budget Process that Directors be instructed to prepare initial revenue budgets in accordance with a timetable agreed by the Head of Finance. Preparation should be on the following basis:

- Capital charges, central accommodation costs and central support costs to be estimated centrally;

- Services to prepare baseline budgets on current service levels as set out in the 2020/21 Final Revenue Budget report;
- Budgets to be broken down subjectively and objectively in as much detail as deemed appropriate by the Head of Finance;
- Budget reports to include adjustments to the 2020/21 estimates where appropriate;
- Full account to be taken of the revenue costs, other than debt charges of new capital schemes coming into use;
- Minimum efficiency targets to be met initially as detailed in the 2020/21 Final Revenue Budget report;
- Directors would continue to draw up Service Plans that set out the aims and objectives for the service and any possible future developments and efficiencies;
- As part of the Capital Strategy for 2020/21 to 2024/25, a 5-year programme was set for the Council. This would, however, have to be reviewed and formal bids must be made for all capital schemes, irrespective of whether they may be present in the current Capital Programme. It would be the responsibility of each Director to co-ordinate capital bids for their services and to ensure that, in view of the limited resources that will be available, only the highest priority bids were submitted in the approved format in accordance with the Council's approved project management methodology (including business plans where applicable). To this end the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, including sustainable development and better carbon management would be incorporated and evaluated; and
- As stated previously, it was expected that the revenue costs of service development would need to be met from within the respective services (in particular, from the savings made). As such, no revenue bids were initially to be made. However, services may still be asked to identify and prioritise any burgeoning revenue cost pressures for consideration.

It was believed that WG may announce the settlement for 2021/22 in a similar manner to the 2020/21 settlement i.e. provisional in December and final in late February / early March. This differed from the normal timeframes for the settlement. However, in order to ensure full scrutiny and to meet deadlines, the proposed timetable for the 2021/22 budget was for Cabinet to make its initial revenue and capital budget proposals in November 2020. The capital bids considered and prioritised would include those recommended by the Insight Board. Each Scrutiny Committee would be consulted and would receive the relevant initial proposals of the Cabinet in December 2020.

- Scrutiny Committees would be asked to make recommendations on the proposals. Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee would act as the lead Scrutiny Committee in this respect;
- The budget would then be considered by the Budget Working Group, which would submit its recommendations to Cabinet by February 2021. Cabinet would formulate its final proposals and submit them to a meeting of Full Council to be held in March 2021, having first taken any response from the lead Scrutiny Committee into account.

- It may be necessary for Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet and Council to hold special meetings in order to ensure that the budget be approved within the statutory deadline; and
- Membership of the Budget Working Group would consist of the Leader, Deputy Leader, Managing Director and Head of Finance.

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 Budget Strategy for 2021/22, including the requirement for Directors to prepare initial revenue budgets in accordance with a timetable agreed by the Head of Finance, be approved.
- (2) T H A T Directors be requested to continue to progress the Reshaping Services Programme.
- (3) T H A T the following timetable for the 2021/22 Budget Process be approved, subject to any amendments being required to meet the statutory deadline, as a result of changes in the timing of Welsh Government settlement announcements.

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Reason for decisions

- (1-3) To enable the 2021/22 Budget process to be commenced.

C310 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE WORKING INITIATIVES UPDATE (L/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report the purpose of which was to inform Cabinet that 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 received a quarterly update on those collaborations that Corporate Management Team (CMT) deemed to be strategically significant (there were many more operational examples of collaboration underway across the Authority).

The Compendium of Strategic Working Initiatives at Appendix A to the report provided an oversight of the strategic level collaborative working activity in which the Council was involved and captured the detail of the various initiatives underway.

The report also provided Cabinet with an update regarding the provisions of the forthcoming Local Government & Elections Bill in the context of collaborative working.

The Compendium (Appendix A) was maintained to enable oversight of the strategic level collaborative working activity the Council was involved in and provided a description of the various initiatives that were underway. The Compendium illustrated how each element of collaborative working aligned with the Council's Well-being Outcomes which were contained in the Corporate Plan. The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act indicated that collaboration was one of the key ways of working to support sustainable development and meet the Council's duty under the Act. Collaboration was also one of the alternative models of service delivery which was considered as part of the Reshaping Services programme and it was envisaged that this approach would play a key role in the way services were delivered in the future.

Cabinet Members noted that the content of the Compendium (Appendix A) was not an exhaustive list of all collaborative working that was underway in the Council. Many operational level collaborative efforts supported both projects and 'business as usual' activity and these were monitored and managed within individual service areas.

Cabinet last received an update on the Compendium on 3rd February, 2020. A report was due to be brought to Cabinet in April; however, due to the need of the Council to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic this report was postponed. A number of the strategic initiatives included in the Compendium of Collaboration had been affected by COVID-19. Initiatives which had been impacted included:

- Leisure Centre Contract – A contract extension was agreed in principle with Legacy Leisure prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the uncertainty about future income levels within the Leisure sector extension negotiations were presently on hold. A re-opening board had been established for Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Centres which was chaired by the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture.
- Local Authority Partnership Agreement (LAPA) – work to regionalise the LAPA through which Sports Wales funding was allocated had been suspended due to COVID-19.
- Regional Collaborative Group (Housing Support Grant) – The development and work of this group was currently on hold due to the pandemic. The Regional Development Co-ordinators post had been re-purposed by Welsh

Government to concentrate on providing a regional picture of homelessness data during this time.

- Safer Vale Community Safety Partnership – The formal launch of the new Community Safety Strategy had been postponed. Partners were currently progressing the strategy within organisations with a formal launch planned for later in the year.
- Regional Partnership Board (RPB) – Integrated Care Fund, transformation funding had been diverted to support the response to COVID-19.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Central Co-ordination Cell had been established. The Cell, a partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Police, Probation, Cardiff and Vale Public Health, Third Sector Representatives including RSLs and Support Providers, had been established to ensure that people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness had the adequate resources and support they needed to keep them safe during the pandemic. The focus of the Co-ordination Cell was to develop an effective, local response to ensure people could access sanitation, isolate effectively when necessary, and have access to medical and other support as necessary in order to limit the risk of wider infection within this group. It was hoped that through this engagement with people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness permanent accommodation solutions could be found. The Central Co-ordination Cell had been added to the Compendium and updates on the progress of the initiative would be reported to Cabinet

To co-ordinate the Test, Trace and Protect programme and to manage and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the Vale of Glamorgan, a Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) infrastructure had been established. Operating on a regional footing across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff, partners from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cardiff and Vale Public Health, Shared Regulatory Services and the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Local Authorities were working together to manage the TTP response. The infrastructure of the TTP included a daily Operational Group, a Weekly Regional Operational Board and a Monthly Strategic Leadership Group. New confirmed positive tests and contacts were discussed through these groups as well key aspects of the TTP response such as messaging and communication. The TTP had been added as a strategic initiative and regular updates would be reported through the Compendium.

Collaboration and Local Government Reform

The Welsh Government Green Paper consultation document, Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People, was issued on 20th March, 2018. The Green Paper set out the 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.

Cabinet considered and endorsed the Council's response to the Green Paper consultation at its meeting held on 6th June, 2018 and following this, the response was submitted to Welsh Government.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill was published on 18th November, 2019. It was anticipated that, subject to successful passage through the Welsh Assembly, the Bill would receive Royal Assent by the end of summer 2020. However, consideration by the Senedd would now take place in the autumn, with Royal Assent likely in the new year. The Bill included a number of provisions including:

- The reforming of electoral arrangements for local government;
- A general power of competence for principal Councils and eligible Community Councils;
- Reforming public participation in local democracy;
- The leadership of principal Councils, including to encourage greater diversity amongst Executive Members and establishing a statutory position of Chief Executive;
- The development of a framework and powers to facilitate more consistent and coherent regional working mechanisms through the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees (instigated either by two Principal Councils or by Welsh Ministers);
- A new system for performance management and governance based on self-assessment and peer review, including the consolidation of the Welsh Ministers' support and intervention powers;
- Powers to facilitate voluntary mergers of Principal Councils and restructuring a principal area;
- Local government finance including non-domestic rating and Council Tax.

In partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Welsh Government had established a working group to inform the development of the Bill. It was anticipated that this group would continue to meet to develop the statutory guidance accompanying the Bill in parallel with its passage through the Senedd. This would include details of regional collaborative arrangements, in the form of Corporate Joint Committees. Further information would be brought to Cabinet as the Bill and guidance were developed.

The Managing Director added that the report was not able to be reported in April as intended as a result of the pandemic, but the importance of collaboration had remained. Over the last three months, collaboration had actually been more important than ever. There were good partnership arrangements in place in South Wales across the Local Resilience Forum and South Wales Police boundaries which had enabled quicker responses to the pandemic with partners from across other Local Authorities, Police and Health Boards and would continue through the recovery phase and be part of future reports.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the strategic collaborative working initiatives that were in place to support the delivery and development of Council services and the Council's well-being outcomes and objectives be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be circulated by e-mail to all Vale of Glamorgan Council elected Members and to members of the Public Services Board.
- (3) T H A T further updates be provided to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, and in accordance with the Cabinet's forward work programme.

Reasons for decisions

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

C311 REINSTATEMENT OF TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS: SEPTEMBER 2020 TO MAY 2021 (L/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to agree the reinstatement the timetable of meetings from September 2020 to May 2021 and to set a new date of 14th September, 2020 for the holding of the Council's Annual Meeting that had been due to take place in May 2020.

On 23rd March, 2020 Cabinet had met and suspended the timetable of meetings with the agreement of other Chairmen as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown but would now reinstate the timetable of meetings from September 2020.

The Leader added the caveat that dates could change should there be a new spike in infections connected with COVID-19, and if this were to be the case, the matter would be reconsidered accordingly. This would also include the use of virtual and semi-virtual meetings or the use of Council office facilities as required.

Following the latest guidance, some meetings had already taken place such as Cabinet, Scrutiny, a Licensing Sub-Committee and Planning, and a Public Protection Licensing and Audit Committee meetings were scheduled to take place shortly.

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 Timetable of Meetings that had been suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic be re-instated from September 2020 as detailed at Appendix A to the report, subject to any future changes in arrangements for meetings deemed appropriate by the Mayor of the Council or the relevant Committee Chairman.

(2) T H A T in pursuance of Resolution (1) above, the Council's Annual Meeting be held on 14th September, 2020.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To continue with the Calendar of Meetings for the 2020/21 Municipal Year from September 2020.

(2) To allow the Council to hold its Annual Meeting.

C312 REVIEW OF WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPERS: DRAFT SENEDD CYMRU (REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2020 AND DRAFT SENEDD CYMRU (DISQUALIFICATION) ORDER 2020 (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader noted that the Managing Director and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services would leave the meeting for this report as both had an interest in the report in terms of election responsibilities.

Councillor Williams presented the report, the purpose of which was to inform Cabinet that Welsh Government issued in June 2020, two consultation papers relating to the below draft Orders which related to the Senedd Cymru Elections to be held in May 2021:

- draft Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2020 and
- draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020.

The Consultation documents were attached at Appendices A and D to the report, with the draft Orders attached at Appendices B and E, and proposed responses at Appendices C and G respectively.

The report sought approval of the proposed responses and drew to the attention of all Members the ongoing consultations which close on 8th and 1st September, 2020 respectively.

The consultation documents related to the following draft Orders, and a summary of the key provisions are set out below:

The Draft Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2020:

Appendix A to the report was a copy of the Welsh Government consultation document with a copy of the draft Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2020 set out in Appendix B.

The draft Order proposed amendments to the National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 (as Amended) which primarily set out the rules for the conduct of Elections to the Senedd Cymru.

Some of the proposed amendments reflected Welsh Government policy decisions and legislative changes including those introduced by the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 and in particular addressed:

- The Senedd Cymru change of name;
- Extension of Senedd Franchise to 16 and 17 year olds and associated provisions as enacted by the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020;
- Protection of information about persons aged under 16 years old;
- Extension of the Senedd franchise to qualifying foreign citizens;
- Disqualifications to align with the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 and the Government of Wales Act 2006 as amended;
- The withholding of publication of candidates' addresses to align with other legislation permitting candidates to withhold their home addresses from publication including where a candidate acts as his / her own agent;
- Removing the payment of a fee to Returning Officers for administering Senedd Cymru Elections at a Constituency and Regional level;
- Proposal to make a payment to all Electoral Teams for running the Senedd Cymru Elections in 2021, with the possibility of an additional amount being paid to those Teams dealing with the regional administration aspects of the Election reflecting the remit of the Regional Returning Officer;
- Enabling Codes of Practice to be introduced by the Electoral Commission relating to election expenses for candidates at Senedd Cymru Elections.

Other matters not included in the draft Order which were intended to be included in the final Order included:

- Provision to ensure that the rules in the Order for absent voters' records and the rules for the protection of information about 14 and 15 year old attainers in the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020, operated effectively together;

and

- Provision for political parties to use the term "Welsh" or "Cymru" on registration and ballot papers for the Senedd Elections.

The proposed draft response to the Consultation was attached at Appendix C to the report.

The Draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020:

Appendix D to the report was a copy of the Welsh Government consultation document with a copy of the draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020 set out in Appendix E.

In line with the general principles as recommended by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee which were referred to in Appendix D, the Order set out a list of offices which disqualified the persons holding them from being a Member of the Senedd, and supplements the disqualifying offices as set out in the Government of Wales Act 2006. Attached at Appendix F to the report was the list of disqualifying offices as set out in the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The consultation sought views on which offices should be included in the Order.

For information, Schedule 1A, part 2 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 which lists the offices currently disqualified was attached Appendix F to the report.

The proposed response to the consultation was set out of Appendix G to the report.

As the Youth Champion, and having spoken to colleagues within Youth Services, Councillor McCaffer added that the Youth Cabinet had been very interested in this and were keen to be included in the process to be able to vote.

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 proposed responses attached to the report at Appendices A and C in respect of the Welsh Government's consultation on the draft Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2020 and the draft Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020 be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the responses to the consultations be submitted to Welsh Government prior to 8th and 1st September, 2020 respectively.
- (3) T H A T the report be shared with all Members of the Council to raise awareness of Welsh Government's ongoing consultations.
- (4) T H A T the urgent decision procedure set out at Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be used in respect of Resolutions (1)-(3) above

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To agree a response to the Welsh Government consultations.
- (2) To meet the Welsh Government deadlines.
- (3) To raise awareness with all Members of the Welsh Government's ongoing consultations.
- (4) To meet the Welsh Government deadlines

C313 PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – RESORTS, TOWN CENTRES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

Councillor King presented the report, which sought approval to vary the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), by increasing the restricted areas covered by it, in respect of alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) that expired in October 2020.

As the Council did not tolerate Anti-Social Behaviour on its Resorts and Public Spaces, it would be necessary to add Cosmeston Country Park, Porthkerry Country Park, Penarth Pier and Esplanade and Ogmores beach and surrounds to include those areas as part of the restricted areas covered by the existing Order, where there had been incidents over the summer and where Council Officers and the Police had limited ability to manage anti-social behaviour as a result of alcohol consumption within these areas. This would enable the Council and the Police to provide a proportionate and robust response to addressing areas of alcohol related anti-social behaviour across all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.

It would be necessary to undertake a 6-week consultation process over the summer on the existing areas covered by the Order in place, in addition to the proposal to vary it by increasing the number of restricted areas covered under it and prepare a report for the next Council meeting for consideration

The existing Order, attached at Appendix A to the report, included the details of the list of current locations that were included within the Order as were appended in the Schedule.

The report also sought approval to undertake a Consultation as required by the Act, to prepare a future report to extend the existing Orders that were due to expire and to vary the Order to include additional restricted areas by increasing the number of PSPOs to address a range of ASB experienced in certain areas across the Vale of Glamorgan.

For information purposes and to note, before an Order could be made, there was a legal test before a PSPO could be made. The test required that the behaviour being restricted must:

- Be having, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or
- It was likely that activities would be carried on in a public place within that area and that they would have such an effect.

The second condition was that;

- Was, or was likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- Was, or was likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- Justified the restrictions imposed by the notice.

In this case the behaviour to be restricted in the existing Orders and the proposal to increase the restricted areas covered by the Orders in place, in respect of alcohol related ASB only and the Orders were designed to ensure that the majority of law-abiding citizens could use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB.

At present, the existing PSPOs provided an effective means to manage land to prevent any ASB escalating by providing additional powers to issue warnings, seize and confiscate alcohol and to stop the consumption of alcohol if necessary.

In the restricted areas a person committed an offence if without reasonable excuse he or she continued to carry out activities from which he or she was prohibited, namely;

- Continuing to drink alcohol when required to stop doing so by an Authorised Officer;
- Not surrendering any alcohol in his or her possession when required to do so by an Authorised Officer;
- Refusal to hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which were believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an Authorised Officer.

This allowed the Police and designated Council Officers to effectively manage and deal with situations that were alcohol related when it was consumed in a public space.

The Council had been restricted in its ability to robustly manage ASB in certain areas over the spring / summer 2020 as a result of increased alcohol consumption and in the absence of PSPOs.

Since the relaxation of COVID-19 measures, an increase in visitor numbers to coastal areas and a reduction of licenced premises operating, had seen an increase in the consumption of take away alcohol in public spaces where this had been facilitated and this had occasionally resulted in associated ASB.

The Council would not tolerate ASB on public spaces and the report aimed to capture recent areas of concern as well as the future arrangements for the existing Orders that were due to expire in October 2020. This would allow the Council to robustly manage all its Resorts, Town Centres and Open Spaces.

As a result, it was proposed that the following areas be added to the existing schedule for consultation:

- Cosmeston Country Park
- Porthkerry Country Park
- Penarth Pier and Esplanade
- Ogmore beach and surrounding common land
- Llantwit Major – Cwm Col-Huw
- Rhoose Point.

The Council had a statutory duty to consult when proposing to introduce PSPOs. Section 72 of 'the Act' did not determine the length of a consultation period, the Council previously when consulting on the making of the PSPO in October 2017 preceded its decision by undertaking for a 6-week Consultation which was deemed reasonable.

The existing Orders expire in October 2020 and therefore it was proposed that consultation was undertaken over the summer and the outcome presented in a report to Full Council at the end of September 2020 or at the earliest opportunity subject to any further relaxation of COVID-19 measures. This would include a proposal to extend the existing Orders for a further period of 3 years and vary it by increasing the number of restricted areas to be included within it.

If the Order was not extended and the proposal implemented to vary the Order by increasing the number of restricted areas within it, then the existing PSPOs in their current form would cease to exist from October 2020. This was likely to prevent the Council from achieving its Corporate commitments and the Council and Police would have greater difficulty preventing or stopping ASB associated with the consumption of alcohol in designated areas.

It would not be an offence to drink alcohol in a controlled drinking zone. However, it would be an offence to fail to comply with the request to cease drinking by an officer or surrender alcohol, in a controlled drinking zone. Possible sanctions included a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or a fine of up to level 2 upon conviction.

The renewal of PSPOs was designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority of law-abiding citizens and communities and not simply restrict activities.

Councillor King drew attention to Recommendation (4) which sought the use of article 14.14 (the urgency procedure) to implement Recommendations (1), (2) and (3) as implementation needed to begin as soon as practicable.

The Leader added that was important to note some of the issues that had come forward as a result of lockdown and the subsequent easing of restrictions that had to be addressed using PSPOs, both supporting previous Orders as well addressing the additional areas listed in paragraph 2.11.

Councillor Gray noted the numbers of residents who had contacted him who were concerned about the environment along Penarth Esplanade. Along with the

Orders, the public also had to take personal responsibility for their actions. Constituents would be able to contact the Council to suggest further areas that may require attention as part of the consultation process. The Council had extended the opening times of the toilets on the Esplanade, had increased frequency of emptying of bins and had written to licence holders to remind them of their obligations.

Councillor Burnett referred to examples of unacceptable behaviour in a number of areas of across the Vale which would not usually be expected. Some PSPOs, e.g. at Barry Island, had been in place for years but had not had to be used as people were acting responsibly. The Council would not expect the Orders to be used in everyday circumstances but there needed to be tools that the Council were able to enforce if necessary, in partnership with the Police, and keep public spaces safe and enjoyable for local residents.

The Leader and Managing Director had also written to local licensees on Barry Island and Penarth Esplanade to remind them of their responsibilities, especially as restrictions were eased following lockdown. There was a PSPO from 2017, listed as Appendix A, which covered a number of areas, but the report looked to extend coverage to the additional areas listed in paragraph 2.11 as those areas had come forward since the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Recommendation (3) recommended that the outcome of the consultation be referred to the next Council meeting, which would be the 21st September Council meeting, and could include any further recommendations for consideration that would sit alongside the areas already in existence as listed in Appendix A.

Councillor King added that there had been good support from licenced traders, but the most significant issue was visitors bringing their own alcohol to certain areas.

The Managing Director added that the areas listed in paragraph 2.11 were predominantly coastal areas as visitors looked to use the coastline as a result of the easing of lockdown restrictions. It was also noted that Recommendation (4) referred to 'Recommendations 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3' which should have read as 'Recommendations 1, 2 and 3'. It was agreed to amend the wording of Recommendation (4) accordingly.

The Director of Environment and Housing added that he was grateful for Cabinet support and that some behaviour as a result of alcohol had had an effect on residents and resorts would suffer without prompt action being taken. Alcohol had been confiscated from people arriving at Barry Island and areas would continue to be policed to ensure that the resorts and parks remain attractive places to visit.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning added that similar issues had been experienced at country parks and people should be able to enjoy the country parks and coastal locations for what they are rather than places to consume and abuse alcohol.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the proposal to vary the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (“PSPO”) by increasing the restricted areas covered by it as detailed within the report and which will be presented to Full Council for future consideration be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the commencement of a 6-week Consultation on all restricted areas proposed to be included in the existing Public Space Protection Order and current restricted areas included within it, in respect of Alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the outcome of the Consultation and any proposed Public Space Protection Orders, to be varied and increased be reported to Council including any further recommendations for consideration be approved.
- (4) T H A T the use of Article 14:14 (urgency procedure) in respect of Resolutions (1) – (3) above be agreed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To assist the Council robustly manage alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour at its Resorts, Town Centres and Public Open Spaces.
- (2) To ensure the Council complies with its duty to carry out a necessary consultation under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”)
- (3) To ensure the Council and South Wales Police have the appropriate powers to protect the quality of lives of those who live, work and visit restricted areas and to permit the majority of the law-abiding citizens to use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- (4) To ensure the Council carries out the necessary consultation required under the Act on the proposal to vary and consult on the existing restricted areas covered by the Order in place, and increasing the existing Order before they expire, to provide Council Officers and the Police the appropriate powers to manage activities of alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour

C314 CAR PARKING DISPLACEMENT – COASTAL AREAS AND OTHER LOCATIONS WITH HIGH VISITOR NUMBERS (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

Councillor King presented the report, which sought to inform Members that the Council had several residential areas where its residents were suffering from extraneous parking.

One of the ways that residents could be supported in such cases was to introduce resident parking schemes aimed at giving residents priority over on street parking in their streets.

The Council (and its predecessors) had not introduced any new residential parking schemes since 1996.

At its meeting in March 2019 Cabinet considered a new Resident Parking Policy but this was rejected largely due to the costs proposed for permits but also as Members felt the Policy did not address all the issues that residents were experiencing.

The report proposed a new 'Resident Parking Controls Policy' aimed at providing a new opportunity to address current and future residential parking concerns, taking account of previous comments made both by Elected Members and the public when Cabinet previously considered this matter.

The Policy featured two options for residential parking schemes, both at no additional costs to residents; one based on the existing scheme in place in a number of town centres, and a new arrangement primarily aimed at addressing parking problems in housing estates and cul-de-sacs.

In addition to historical considerations, the new Policy took full account of the parking issues experienced recently by residents during the COVID-19 emergency.

The report proposed consideration of the following specific areas in the first tranche of residential parking assessments, which would be conducted in line with the Policy:

- Barry Island,
- Ogmere-by-Sea,
- The Knap,
- Cosmeston
- Llandough and
- Middlegate Court, Cowbridge.

The report proposed delegating certain authorities to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport and use of the Council's urgency procedures for decision making, due to the need to promptly progress a conclusion to some of the parking displacement issues currently being experienced.

There were several ways of mitigating parking displacement problems in residential areas, such as increased off street parking capacity, promoting increased use of other forms of transport and the introduction of 'on street' parking restrictions, such as residential parking schemes, which provided a parking advantage to residents over visitors.

Introducing additional off street parking capacity was an expensive option and did not fit with the Council's strategic plan to increase active travel and reduce reliance on the private motor car. Also, whilst promoting a shift away from the use of private motor cars was a constant, excessively high parking demands at certain locations in the Vale was set to continue for the foreseeable future.

The report therefore concentrated on the possible introduction of on street parking restrictions aimed at providing greater parking opportunities for residents over those whom may be visiting the area to attend an attraction nearby.

As this Council had not introduced any new residential parking-based schemes since Local Government Reorganisation in 1996, the report recommended the introduction of a new Resident Permit Parking Policy, aimed at addressing the resident parking issues currently being experienced and those that could be in the future.

As previously advised the main objection to the Resident Permit Parking Policy previously proposed was the cost to residents. Whilst this may not be such an issue for new resident parking permit applications, there were 1,923 existing permits for residential parking in our town centres (1,596 in Barry and 327 in Penarth Llandough) and it was felt that any charges could cause hardship for those residents; this point could be considered as being particularly relevant now as the country eased out of the COVID-19 emergency phase.

Elected Members also raised concerns that the previous draft policy did not apply in streets where there was private off street parking available.

Officers had been reviewing the position on residents parking since the March 2019 meeting, considering the points raised, looking at ways of modernising such controls to make them more fit for purpose and cost effective for the residents such schemes aim to protect.

Attached at Appendix A to the report was a new draft Resident Parking Controls Policy which addressed many of the issues that had been raised in the past.

The Policy proposed two types of residential parking controls; 'Parking Permit Areas', which were essentially controlled zones, where the presence of a 'resident only' parking arrangement would be evident as you drove into an area via the entrance signage, where there would be no marked parking bays; and 'Resident Parking Permit Bays', which was essentially the system that currently existed in many of the Vale's town centres and involved lengths of the highway being specifically marked as bays for residential parking.

The new suggested addition of 'Parking Permit Areas' allowed the Council to restrict visitor parking at relatively low infrastructure cost and the absence of highway line markings and excessive repeater signage assists with protecting the aesthetics of the residential environments.

They also provided the Council with an opportunity to address many existing, and some long standing, excessive parking demand issues for residents living in

locations such as Barry Island, Ogmore-by-Sea, the Knap, Cosmeston, Llandough and Middlegate Court, Cowbridge.

As any new controls would be enforceable by the Council's own Civil Parking Enforcement staff it also lessened the burden on the Police and ensured for timelier and directed enforcement, should any of the new controls be breached.

The Policy proposed that responsibility for determining which areas be considered for either of the 'control options', be delegated to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, which ensured prompt consideration of applications up to and including the Traffic Regulation Order public consultation stage. As was currently the case if any objections were received to this formal stage, they would need to be considered by Cabinet and a decision then taken as to whether to proceed with the Order or not.

Officers were in the process of modernising the Civil Parking Enforcement function, since taking the service back from Bridgend in April 2020, and this would involve the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) as a method of determining parking offences. Initially this would be via the camera car and current on street parking controls e.g. double yellow lines, but it was planned to roll-out the digitising of all parking controls within the next 12 months and this would see residential parking controls also included.

It was proposed that there be no charge for the issuing of permits at this time and that income from enforcement in these areas be assessed over time to ensure that this service operated on at least a break-even position.

In terms of funding to undertake the physical works required to introduce either residential parking schemes controls, it was proposed that £20k of the Neighbourhood Services and Transport asset renewal capital budget be used for this purpose and that each scheme be prioritised with schemes unable to be funded in one year passed over to the next. This was similar to the current process for the creation of Individual Disabled Persons Parking Bays.

It was further proposed that suitable residential parking control schemes be designed for Barry Island, Ogmore-by-Sea, (areas most affected by extraneous parking), Llandough (Dochdwy Road area worst affected by Llandough Hospital parking demand), Cosmeston Drive (areas worst affected by overflow parking from Cosmeston Park), The Knap, Barry (side roads currently subject to "no access except for residents Orders", enforceable only by the Police), and Cowbridge (areas worst affected by high parking demand for the Town Hall car park e.g. Middlegate Court). This would be an initial phase of the new policy aimed at addressing the excessive parking demand that already existed at these locations, and that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport to engage with the residents in these areas, to formulate the most suitable design plans for these schemes prior to formally advertising the plans to seek their views and then going forward with a draft Traffic Regulation Order should there be suitable consensus.

Councillor King advised this was a new Policy and was different from all previous incarnations. He believed the report, and associated Appendix, were a comprehensive assessment that aimed to address historic issues from displacement parking that may have been exacerbated by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and complimented the recent 'Car Parking – Guiding Principles and Charging' Policy that would be implemented more fully when the lockdown situation eases.

The Council had taken account of the significant public consultation responses received on the first time a new resident parking permit policy was mooted in March 2019, and have reflected upon previous objections, specifically that of cost to the affected residents (both existing permit holders and proposed new ones) and believe what was being brought forward addressed that fairly.

Councillor King pointed out that no new zone could, or would, be implemented before consultation with, and obtaining agreement from, the residents of the identified areas. Also, a further report considering the consultation responses to the Traffic Regulation Orders required to implement car park charging would be considered later in the year.

Councillor King advised that that the Executive Summary to the report (bullet point 8) omitted Cowbridge, in the vicinity of Middlegate Court, although this was clearly identified in the body of the Report (within paragraph 2.17); for the avoidance of doubt, that area of Cowbridge would be included in initial scoping.

In the case of these measures, Councillor King drew attention to Recommendation (6) which sought the use of article 14.14 (the urgency procedure) to implement Recommendations (1), (2), (3) and (4) as, unlike car parking charges, implementation needed to begin as soon as practicable.

Councillor Burnett referred to historical parking restrictions being considered within working hours of Monday to Friday and 09.00 hours to 17.00 hours / 08.00 hours to 18.00 hours, but it was recognised that evenings and weekends could be bigger problems in some areas so some flexibility was required that took into consideration different local characteristics, protected local residents and were enforceable by the Council.

The Director of Environment and Housing added it was important to design the schemes to work for the residents and was keen to hold early discussions with residents before proposing an acceptable design to go through the Traffic Regulation Order process.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the new Resident Parking Controls Policy attached at Appendix A to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, to design the residential parking schemes for the locations listed in the report (including Middlegate Court, Cowbridge) and any new residential parking schemes that were deemed appropriate in the future.
- (3) T H A T £20k of the Neighbourhood and Transport asset renewal capital budget be re-allocated to this project for 2020/21, with the same amount to be committed for future years.
- (4) T H A T on implementation of any residential parking schemes, reviews be conducted on an ongoing basis of the comparison between the full costs of the order (revenue and capital) and any enforcement income received, along with any additional socio-economic benefits.
- (5) T H A T Cabinet be provided with a further report on this matter in 12 months.
- (6) T H A T the use of Article 14:14 (urgency procedure) in respect of Resolutions (1), (2), (3) and (4) be agreed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To agree the new Policy.
- (2) To ensure that the locations indicated and any new residential parking scheme proposals can be promptly considered and determined.
- (3) To enable year on year funding for residential parking schemes on a prioritised basis.
- (4) To ensure that residential parking schemes remain viable.
- (5) To update Cabinet on the outcomes of the Policy.
- (6) To enable a prompt introduction of the Policy so that solutions can be considered for those residents suffering most from parking displacement.

315 MATTERS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WERE URGENT –

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

C316 COVID 19/CORONAVIRUS – WORKING TOWARDS RECOVERY (REF) – (Urgent by reason of the need for Cabinet to consider the Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations prior to the Council’s August Recess)

The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee had considered the report at its meeting held on 15th July, 2020.

“The report had been included within the agenda pending its referral by Cabinet at its meeting on 13th July, 2020. Cabinet had subsequently resolved that the report be referred for consideration by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and although the reference from Cabinet was not yet available, the Leader and Deputy Leader were present for questioning by the Scrutiny Committee as required. The report provided an overview of the work underway to develop a recovery strategy for the organisation following the coronavirus pandemic and had sought Cabinet approval for the approach. The report was the latest in a series of update reports to Elected Members regarding the continuing Coronavirus pandemic and complemented the ongoing and regular communication and information sharing whilst the Council operated during the crisis.

With the approval of the Committee a presentation was uploaded to the screen, which had been prepared as a summary of the report and which outlined key areas as follows: -

- From Response to Recovery
- Taking people with us
- Thinking about the challenges ahead and how we meet them
- Recovery update and next steps

It was suggested and agreed by all that pauses for questioning and comments by Committee members be undertaken following each of the above stages within the presentation. The presentation was to also be a joint approach between the MD and the Head of Policy and Business Transformation to Committee.

The Managing Director commenced by advising that the first section of the presentation was about the response objectives and ensuring that lockdown measures were in place in order to care for the most vulnerable. Members were informed that the Council had mobilised its workforce, the majority of which meant that staff were working from home and there was a huge amount of ongoing work across organisations. The initial activity within services to date had been on the Council’s response to the Coronavirus, with the aim of the response phase being to reduce the transmission of Coronavirus whilst continuing to operate critical services for those who needed them. The Cabinet report had also highlighted the Governance issues and arrangements that had been put in place for the Council.

The report to Cabinet had stated that in the short to medium term, services would begin to move out of response and into the transition phase. The managing of the transition phase would focus on moving out of lockdown in line with the easing of restrictions as set out by Welsh Government whilst recognising that services could

not operate “as usual”. It was also always possible that changes made to the way in which services worked would be reversed and this would see a movement back to the response phase. The recovery work would commence in parallel with the transition phase for services and the phase involved the longer-term consideration of how the Council would work in the future. In referring to specific aspects of the presentation Members’ attention was drawn to the different phases within framework as illustrated in the figure identified below:

The Council’s crisis response objectives had focused on the following:

- “Care for our most vulnerable residents by ensuring the continuity of priority services e.g. social care, food parcels, childcare hwbs, homelessness;
- Maintain and manage our public spaces in general accordance with Welsh Government advice and objectives and having regard to local circumstances e.g. waste services;
- Ensure lockdown measures were in place, again in line with Welsh Government advice and objectives, and that such measures were regularly reviewed and enforced e.g. parks, resorts, enforcement, tannoy;
- Support our workforce to work flexibly and safely from their place of work or home e.g. PPE, guidance, working from home;
- Support our partners in their work e.g. UHB, PSG, WLGA;
- Help keep businesses sustainable by offering advice and guidance and administering financial assistance and support e.g. grants;
- Keep the Council running e.g. finance, governance, decision making;
- Keep people informed.”

The governance and decision-making arrangements during Covid had been as follows:

- The use of Emergency Powers process which was undertaken in consultation with senior politicians with decisions being published on a fortnightly basis;
- Regular communications with Elected Members and some virtual meetings e.g. Licensing Sub-Committee, School Admission Exclusion Appeals Panels and Planning Committee had taken place to date;
- Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee itself had also taken place in July.

The Managing Director had also chaired Gold Command meetings which had initially taken place regularly 7 days, then 5 and now 3 days per week with an extended Corporate Management Team.

Committee was further informed that as a result of the response there had been a considerable amount of learning achieved to date, a number of services had continued in some form with notable exceptions such as schools in Learning and Skills and some Social Services such as day services. Face to face services had largely been suspended, office receptions had been stopped, there had also been an impact on the Capital Work Programme as works had been suspended and an impact on finance inbound call handling and collection rates had been seen. The Council had also operated differently throughout Covid-19 with digital working processes, video conferencing and data sharing taking place. Teaching and LSA

staff had worked in different ways, for example digitally and with a changing emphasis on part of all roles to with a focus on wellbeing. Again as a result of the pandemic there had been different ways of working, digital learning for schools, libraries and adult education, the sharing of data and information across and outside the organisation, with staff also undertaking different roles and taking on different responsibilities, on line assessment processes had replaced paper and face to face and telephone discussions, PPE, crisis support and grants had also been made available. Many staff had been repurposed, red tape had decreased with an increase in risk taking and experimentation. Projects had been driven through at a pace, for example the Your Choice Project and Whatsapp had had a major impact. However, there were several areas that the Council could learn from and these were listed within the presentation and highlighted to Members as below.

- “Digital investment is required;
- Homeworking works but needs work –flexibility for staff, setup at home (e.g. space), kit, etiquette;
- F2F contact is missed in some scenarios –by staff and customers;
- F2F contact could be blended with digital offerings, rather than going back to F2F only;
- We cannot underestimate the impact ICT availability had;
- Need for training (especially in new areas –e.g. using video-conferencing);
- Need to join up decisions across the LA to understand impact of decisions on other departments;
- Potential for digital exclusion –especially socio-economically disadvantaged and elderly;
- People adapt very quickly (staff and service users);
- Office accommodation could be rationalised in the future;
- Communications and engagement with public and service users needed in design of services;
- Internal communication methods have changed. Staffnet+ seen as important;
- The working practices of now aren’t what they will be, and not what they were;
- Policies need to be amended –e.g. home-working, meeting protocols.”

Another slide highlighted the demands and issues that were emerging which were listed as follows:

- “Need to profile / data to target interventions / services – the landscape has changed significantly;
- Using technology to truly collaborate, not just message;
- Increased Anti-Social Behaviour / Domestic Abuse;
- Social distancing arrangements – in workplaces and the public realm;
- Personal Protective Equipment for staff;
- Availability of materials / equipment due to supply chains stalling;
- Flexible working – expectations and working practices;
- Supporting the mental well-being of our residents and staff;
- Initial reduction in demand is now picking up again in many areas;

- There will be a further increase in demand at some point – e.g. courts begin operating again, government announcements;
- Increased staffing is going to be needed to safely undertake some functions;
- Office accommodation needs to be prioritised for those essential ‘F2F’ services;
- Repurposed staff and demands in ‘home’ departments.”

The Managing Director, at this point, advised that it was important that the Council considered the use of technology and took the opportunity to thank the ICT team who had worked tirelessly to ensure that staff could work from home.

The Council had also put investment into ICT connectivity. Work to ensure social distancing measures are in place in office and other buildings had been completed. There had been an issue initially in relation to the supply of PPE, but the Council had urgently sourced more supplies. A major focus for Gold CMT had been the consideration of staff’s mental health and wellbeing. It was apparent, that working from home for some staff was a challenge with further challenges facing the Council being the increasing Government announcements being received and to be acted upon at a moment’s notice. Although senior officials and Members had sought to be cited on any Government announcement earlier on in the process, such announcements were providing considerable workload for CMT and staff. Members were advised that it was important to note that it would take some time for staff to return to the office following any Government announcement, however, it was also noted that the Council may not be in a position to bring everyone back to the office for some time and indeed, whether this was an appropriate course of action to do so would need to be carefully considered in light of the lessons learned during the pandemic and ongoing.

At this point the Chairman asked Members for any comments on the information presented, a member took the opportunity to thank the Managing Director and the Head of Policy and Business Transformation for providing the update expressing particular thanks to all staff for the work undertaken to date noting that the work had been undertaken in similar fashion to other organisations throughout Wales. The challenge for the future he considered being how do we deal with ongoing Council issues whilst dealing with the return to normality. The Member felt that as a group leader although he had had communications from senior officers and politicians, he felt that there should have been a quicker “catch up” on at least a weekly or fortnightly basis as he felt he needed more information on what was happening on the ground and suggested that this be considered by Gold CMT as the Council moved forward. In particular, he referred to the number of deaths within the Vale and within care homes and stated that he would have appreciated an update on the impact on Council finances sooner in the process.

Another member although concurring in the main with the comments referred to the suggestion that a more detailed communication to Group Leaders system should have been incorporated as he was aware that Group Leaders in Swansea had developed such communication mechanisms early in the pandemic. In referring to the ability to undertake virtual meetings, the Member also stated that although the Emergency Powers system had proved effective, he considered that

holding meetings was the way forward in ensuring that Elected Members made the decisions, not officers. The Member acknowledged that he understood the reasons why Emergency Powers had been considered as the most efficient decision-making process early on in the process, however for ongoing decisions, he suggested that virtual meetings be the mechanism for such decisions in the future.

Other Councillors also took the opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work in response to the pandemic, with a Member drawing particular attention to the work of Waste Management staff which he felt had been excellent throughout although having spoken to a member of staff recently, it had raised concern about staff morale and pressure on staff. The Member also raised concern in relation to the fact that there appeared to be not enough staff to undertake inspections of contractors work which was in his view was essential in order to ensure the quality and quantity of work being undertaken.

A Member also referred to the need to provide Members of the Council with opportunities to query the effect of the pandemic on the Council's long-term finances and that they be informed accordingly.

The Leader of the Council, with permission to speak, stated that he too wished to take the opportunity to formally thank all the members of staff and indeed Elected Members who had been involved in keeping the Council's services working and in particular, referred to those working on the front line within Waste Services. In referring to schools, he stated that many vulnerable children had received free meals, Finance and Regeneration had come together with approximately £26m of grants being issued. The Council was logging as much as appropriate to the Covid Code in order to recoup any monies as a result of the pandemic from Welsh Government. With regard to staff working from home, a considerable amount of upgrading to the Council's infrastructure and ICT technology had been undertaken. This had all been achieved during a time when the Finance teams had been trying to close the accounts. The Leader further advised that Cabinet would also be receiving a report in this regard at its meeting on 27th July 2020.

Personally, the Leader stated that working from home had not been easy, very often he had commenced work at 8am and would not finish until well past 7pm. With regard to communications, he stated that all information had been made available on the Council website and that to date he had not received any requests from Group Leaders for any meetings or any further reports on any matter, however he advised Committee that he would be more than happy to speak with any Group Leader following any requests. The Leader also took the opportunity to advise the Committee that he was in contact on a regular basis with 22 Local Authority Leaders who were meeting and working together and meeting and discussing with Welsh Ministers on a regular basis.

In referring specifically to matters within the Vale of Glamorgan that had taken place to date the Leader referred to the incident at Ogmere that had been highlighted within the media, there had also been a number of problems in Council car parks and again a further report on such issues was to be presented to Cabinet on 27th July. In referring to the decision making process that had been

put in place via the use of the Managing Director's Emergency Powers, the normal procedure had been amended in order to include that Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, with their portfolio remit, and where appropriate, the Chairman of the relevant Committee had also been consulted. The Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance were also consulted as part of that process prior to the final decision being undertaken by the Managing Director. The Leader in conclusion, at this stage of the meeting, also wished to record his thanks to the Principal Civil Protection Officer for the Council, who, in his view, had been "absolutely superb" in managing the pandemic crisis from an emergency planning point of view. He further stated that if the Council had made any mistakes, he would rather be criticised for doing something than not doing anything and again reiterated that all Members have the opportunity to call him or contact him via email whenever they wished to do so.

The Deputy Leader, with permission to speak, stated that she had made a number of points at the Cabinet meeting on 13th July, however also commented that there had been "huge levels of creativity and flexibility that had taken place to date" with staff working tirelessly and also without taking any leave during the lockdown weeks. The Deputy Leader also took the opportunity to congratulate the Schools Admission Team for the additional work they had undertaken in ensuring the provision of free school meals to the most vulnerable. With regard to PPE there was now a backup supply within the Council and supplies had also been provided to people within the community. With regard to the process for the 21st Century School Buildings Programme, the contractors had worked with the Local Authority and had developed skills on social distancing in order to keep children safe. The use of virtual meetings was a new experience for all she suggested and indeed was quite a learning curve.

There being no further questions, the Managing Director continued the presentation, referring to the focus on engagement and wellbeing.

The engagement sessions that had been planned prior to the pandemic had been cancelled, however during this period a wellbeing survey had been forwarded to all members of staff to gain an insight into a number of subject areas, for example health and wellbeing, senior leadership, line management support, communication and working conditions. It was noted that 1,126 responses had been received with an overall response rate of 44% of the current workforce. Of further note was the fact that 70% of the total respondents were currently working from home with the June workforce data suggested that around 48% of the Council's workforce were currently working from home in some capacity or another.

A number of questions had been presented within the survey, for example "How worried are you about the impact of Coronavirus on you personally?", with 70% being reported as somewhat worried. "How would you rate your mental health at the current time?" 47% said good or excellent with 11% saying very poor or poor. The survey also showed that 77% of staff felt they knew where to go for support regarding their health, safety and wellbeing and that 70% trusted senior leaders to make decisions that protected themselves and their colleagues. 54% considered that senior leaders of the Council had been sufficiently visible and accessible during the current situation. 55% indicated that they had had an opportunity to

engage in two-way communication and 84% knew where to find information regarding the pandemic. 70% believed communication had been helpful and reassuring and 80% of staff felt they had been kept up to date and well informed. Advice for all employees continued to be updated to the Council's StaffNet on a regular basis. 83% felt that their manager cared about their health and wellbeing and 91% felt that their line manager trusted them to do their job. 80% considered their manager kept them up to date and they were well informed regarding the Council's response to the current situation. 87% also stated that their manager was accessible and frequently in contact with them when working and 80% also considered that they were aware and satisfied with the flexible working arrangements being made by the Council.

In response to a question regarding what were the top two biggest challenges you were currently facing while working, the first was noted as IT with the second being communication with co-workers.

At this point, the Chairman stated that he would like to see a more detailed breakdown of the information and the comments on the text boxes presented to a future Committee meeting to include an insight from an equality perspective. He also considered that Members needed to understand how the Council was managing vulnerable categories as well as details of the involvement of Trade Unions in the process. Having regard to the work of the Audit Committee, the Chairman suggested the Council needed to consider the impact of coronavirus in terms of corporate risk.

A member commented that as far as he was concerned, from the findings of the survey the Council should be proud of what they had achieved during the pandemic and that he had no intention to criticise what had been undertaken to date. He wanted to be part of the process and considered that all Members were involved in the same "storm" but obviously in different political boats. The Member also commented that in his view officers within HR should reconsider what the workplace offer looked like and that people received the right support when they needed it.

A Member also commented that they personally would have not liked to have been in the position that the current Leader found himself in dealing with such a pandemic, with the Member also expressing his appreciation with the communications that he received throughout the process. In particular he informed Committee that he was indeed pleased that he had voted for the budget earlier on in the year having regard now to the pandemic and the issues that the Council was facing.

The Managing Director stated that the main issues for him with regard to working from home centred around caring commitments, the environment staff worked within and wellbeing issues.

In referring to issues within communities the MD further advised that the main implications for the Council had been in managing opinions from communities. Some had considered the easing of lockdown should have been earlier in the process, however as this was Welsh Government legislation the Council had a

duty to ensure that this was adhered to. As Managing Director, he had met with a number of organisations, including South Wales Police, Health Authorities etc where discussions regularly took place around how lockdown measures had affected antisocial behaviour as well as discussions of how all organisations could work together and move forward with the recovery process. For example, there were cross-cutting recovery teams looking at issues such as workforce social distancing. The MD also took the opportunity to advise Members of the work Headteachers had undertaken together as a team, which he had been privileged to witness. Future focus would of course be around schools returning in September, engaging with local traders and the challenge of hospitality reopening. It was envisaged that the hospitality sector would reopen indoors from 3rd August and that work was ongoing for arrangements to be put in place by that time. It was also evidenced that another main issue was around enforcement.

At this point the Managing Director stated that as the Council transitioned from response to recovery, it was time to think about the challenges ahead and how the Council should meet them. The transition objectives to be considered were noted on the presentation slide as follows

- “Ensure that the Council continued to manage and mitigate risks to the longer-term recovery and the easing of lockdown restrictions;
- Continue with the Council’s response objectives, within the context of responding to changes in lockdown arrangements, as necessary and appropriate. As an organisation the Council are on ‘stand by’ to refocus on its response should scientific evidence around the R value and WG advice demand it;
- Consider how the changes introduced in crisis response offer opportunities for long-term, sustainable change both of the Council and the communities it serves;
- Prepare and plan Council services and public spaces for the easing of lockdown with the health and safety of residents, businesses and visitors at the centre of that planning;
- Support the well-being of Council staff, Elected Members and residents, as the impact of Covid-19 continues;
- Communicate and engage with people and partner organisations in the design of our recovery.”

The MD stated that of importance was the fact that recovery was not seen as recovery to a previous state for all services, the recovery process would take a significant amount of time and be influenced by several significant issues which would not necessarily be linear. It was an opportunity unlike any other to fundamentally think about the way in which the Council operated and transformed. Although there was a great deal of uncertainty, he added there was also opportunity and CMT and Heads of Service had worked to consider different time scenarios and high-level themes had emerged around issues relating to health and social care, community and humanitarian, public realm and public spaces, learning continuity, business economy and infrastructure and environmental. These cross-cutting areas would require effective involvement, engagement and communication, understanding partners’ issues, working together, and focus on

the longer term whilst seeking to understand and prevent the root causes of issues.

A Member drew attention to the number of car parking issues that had emerged in Penarth, Holton Road and High Street in Barry and sought clarification on what engagement had been undertaken with businesses within these areas.

The Deputy Leader stated that this was a contentious issue and that it was a balancing act for the Council. She indicated that she personally totally understood the issues within Penarth; however, it was important to note that there were only 14 spaces that had been taken away to date and there were a considerable amount of car parking spaces that remained in and around the area. The Deputy Leader acknowledged the difficulties town centres faced as a result of the pandemic with the level of economic pressure being extremely significant. However, stated that it was important, from her point of view, to ensure that regular communication took place and that the Council needed to be as flexible as possible.

Councillor Rowlands, not a Member of the Committee but with permission to speak, stated that he had been led to believe ambassadors would be employed to work within town centres, but as far as he was aware this initiative had not been developed and having regard to the one way system that had been introduced in Holton Road, he had been advised by a number of traders that they had not been provided with any information in this regard.

The Deputy Leader advised that any initiatives took their time to bed in and that the public needed to be confident with their town centres and yes, she agreed that there should be some learning from what had happened to date, with regular discussions and meetings continuing to take place with traders and organisations as it was a shared approach that was required.

The Chairman also stated that he had received a number of referrals from traders and considered that an improvement in communications was important and that further opportunities should be explored for further discussions to take place.

The Managing Director advised that what the Council was currently doing had been the product of discussions that had taken place with all available organisations, and as things moved forward at significant pace and reactions having to be made very quickly, it was essential that all continue to be involved in the process, with the importance of communication / engagement being emphasised.

Other essential elements another Committee member mentioned that needed to be considered were equalities and accessibility.

The Chairman commented in his view, that the work that had been undertaken within Barry had been exceptional although further signage, particularly for people with disabilities, should be considered in all town centres.

Councillor King, not a member of the committee, with permission to speak, advised that he had himself been involved with a number of town centre recovery meetings emphasised the importance of continued communication.

In continuing with the presentation reference was made to a detailed session that had taken place with the CMT Gold team, the “Getting Real” slide that focused on new ways of working, consideration of old ways, what had been stopped, what had been started, what could end as a result of the response to the crisis, what new things had been considered to date and whether they could / should continue for the future and what services had been stopped in order to focus on the crisis.

In referring to the new Corporate Plan, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that the new Corporate Plan for 2020-25 connected with recovery approach, with the Council aiming to work with and for its communities to support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth, to support people at home and in their community and to respect, enhance and enjoy the environment. The CMT and Heads of Services’ initial thoughts had taken the format of threats and opportunities as also outlined within the presentation and in respect of the four objectives. It was accepted that the strategic actions would form the basis of the recovery strategy and that these actions would be localised into Directorate Plans and cross-cutting Corporate workstream Plans. It had therefore been considered important that the next steps would be to identify the actions, to seize opportunities and mitigate threats, to document the recovery strategy in line with the Corporate Plan, to develop detailed recovery plans within Directorates and across corporate recovery streams with the intention to report to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees as appropriate. A further draft report would be presented to Cabinet detailing the next steps and how the proposed recovery strategy would be formulated, together with the Council’s ambitions.

Following consideration of the presentation and report, in conclusion the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Managing Director and the Head of Service for their presentation and all staff for the hard work that had been undertaken to date, as a result of the pandemic. He also expressed the view that officers and this he meant all staff had done very well given that many had to balance their working lives with their home lives. He also took the opportunity to thank the Democratic Services team for the support given to Members at this time. Although online and remote working arrangements were the way forward, he also considered that the need for personal meetings with social distancing also had a place.

Following consideration of the presentation and the report, the Committee unanimously

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report and its appendix be noted.
- (2) T H A T the approach undertaken in respect of the development of the Council’s Recovery Strategy be noted.

(3) T H A T a further update report be presented to the Committee, in due course, to include detailed qualitative and quantitative information, impact studies and alignment to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

(4) T H A T the discussions at the meeting be forwarded to Cabinet for its consideration having regard to Members comments relating to continued communications with organisations and Elected Members.

(5) T H A T the report be forwarded to the Trade Unions within the Vale as well as all Elected Members, members of the Public Services Board (PSB) and Town and Community Councils.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having considered the update on the work being undertaken to develop the Council's Recovery Strategy.

(3) To receive further updates in due course.

(4) To ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the discussions of the Scrutiny Committee.

(5) To ensure that other stakeholders are also provided with the information as key stakeholders.”

The reference from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee was circulated at the meeting.

Cabinet agreed Recommendations (1) and (2) be noted, Recommendation (3) be noted as a matter for the Scrutiny Committee as was Recommendation (5).

With regards to Recommendation (4), the Leader sought to clarify an issue that had been raised concerning Officers taking decisions without certain Members and Group Leaders being included. During the pandemic decisions were required to be taken quickly as guidance and briefings were taking place daily and the Gold CMT needed to respond to changing circumstances. Officers had acted appropriately adhering to the Emergency Powers procedure as approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 23rd March, 2020, using Emergency Powers with authority obtained from himself, the Deputy Leader and the relevant statutory officers and, where relevant, the Cabinet Members for each Portfolio prior to final approval by the Managing Director.

All Members were also being advised, sometimes on a daily basis regarding matters concerning COVID-19 and the publication of a list of those matters where Emergency Powers had been approved had been circulated to all Members on a fortnightly basis and published at the same time on the Council's website for public viewing.

The Leader advised that should any Members have any particular issue or concern, they could contact him directly for the matter to be addressed. Several conversations had taken place with other Leaders, as well as Councillor Gray and Councillor John.

In terms of meeting with partners, the Leader advised that Cabinet continually met with other organisations including all Welsh Leaders, Members of the Senedd, taken decisions in partnership and with guidance from Welsh Government and worked extensively with the list of partners identified in the 'Strategic Collaborative Working Initiatives Update' report that had been considered today.

As such, it was considered that the actions taken had been the most practical given the circumstances.

Councillor Gray added how pro-active Social Services colleagues had been when dealing with external organisations, both before and during lockdown. Weekly conference calls took place with care providers to understand the latest picture, to gain understanding of the numbers affected, information about testing, etc. and that information had all been shared with Members. Where Emergency Powers decisions had needed to be taken, Councillor Gray had been involved in all of them for Social Services and then reported fortnightly to Members. There had been no contact with any other Group Leader about concerns about Social Services matters. Councillor Gray also added that he had shared information to the Corporate Parenting Panel relating to Children's Services and there had been constructive conversations about some of those issues. Councillor Gray stated he remained available for contact over the summer and work continued daily dealing with issues requiring attention.

Councillor Burnett stated there had been discussion at the Scrutiny meeting concerning arrangements in the town centres where there was misunderstanding concerning the scale of intervention and the amount of contact with traders. Councillor Burnett had been able to explain that only 14 spaces had been removed in Penarth, regular contact had taken place either weekly or fortnightly with contacts in all five different shopping centres for over two months. Throughout that process the arrangements in those towns had been adjusted to reflect the ongoing situation. Councillor Burnett had advised Scrutiny Members accordingly to make them aware of such discussions.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning added that all the actions that had been taken had been with the traders' knowledge and adjusted where needed but was ultimately about safety for the public within a changing situation.

The Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services reiterated that decisions that had been made under Emergency Powers process had been in line with the Cabinet report of 23rd March, 2020 and in accordance with the Council's Constitution. Those decisions had also been publicised and circulated on a regular basis, as well as being displayed on the website.

It was therefore intended that Cabinet would note Recommendation (4) on the basis of the agreed procedures had been followed during what had been an abnormal situation.

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

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report and its appendix be noted.
- (2) T H A T the approach undertaken in respect of the development of the Council's Recovery Strategy be noted.
- (3) T H A T it be noted that a further update report would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee, in due course, to include detailed qualitative and quantitative information, impact studies and alignment to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- (4) T H A T Members' comments relating to continued communications with organisations and Elected Members and the issues raised be noted and that Cabinet confirm that communications had been carried out efficiently and effectively during what has been an abnormal situation.
- (5) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation that the report be forwarded to the Trade Unions within the Vale as well as all Elected Members, members of the Public Services Board (PSB) and Town and Community Councils be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1&2) That the update on the work being undertaken to develop the Council's Recovery Strategy was considered.
- (3) That further updates are received in due course.
- (4) That Cabinet is aware of the discussions of the Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) That other stakeholders are also provided with the information as key stakeholders.

**C317 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 (REF) –
(Urgent by reason of the need for Cabinet to consider the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations prior to the Council's August Recess)**

The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee had considered the report at its meeting held on 15th July, 2020.

“In noting that the reference from the Cabinet meeting had not been available in time for the Scrutiny meeting, it was however noted that the report had been considered by Cabinet in line with the recommendations contained within the report. Cabinet had, on 13th July, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

The Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board’s (PSB) Annual Report 2019-20 was attached as an appendix to the Cabinet report and provided an overview of the progress that had been made by partners in implementing the four wellbeing Objectives and activities detailed in the Plan and against the PSB’s priority workstreams.

In presenting the report, the Head of Policy and Business Transformation stated that the four statutory partners of the PSB – the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales – were providing a strategic lead on the PSB’s wellbeing Objectives. The four wellbeing Objectives were noted at paragraph 1.4 of the report as follows:

- To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services;
- To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation;
- To give children the best start in life;
- To protect, enhance and value our environment.

The report reflected the impact of Coronavirus, the tackling of climate change, improving of engagement and set out a series of detailed case studies with some good information around the work of climate change which detailed the breadth of work that has been undertaken and the main issues for localities.

Committee’s views were sought for any future focus and in particular to shape Scrutiny involvement in the coming year.

A Member took the opportunity to thank the Head of Service for an enthusiastic report and enquired as to how the Head of Service saw the PSB developing in relation to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. It was also not always clear to him as to where all the statistical information was being received from.

The Head of Service stated that all the organisations provided an update with regard to their speciality areas. The Managing Director drew attention to the fact that a lot of recovery work had been undertaken by various groups on the Local Resilience Forum Boundary referring to the SCG and the RCG Recovery Groups. The MD further advised that as recovery moved forward the SCG would step down with the RCG taking over the recovery stage. It was also in his view important to note that the reason the PSB was not at the forefront within the Vale was because all organisations were sitting at a strategic level. The PSB had however asked how they could get involved in the recovery process, with one of the areas emerging being how the recovery elements would impact on the wellbeing Objectives of the PSB with the intention to undertake a piece of work in that regard.

Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic a number of workshops had indeed been held by the PSB as opposed to meetings, with the intention that such workshops continued in the future as they provided an opportunity for discussion on specific areas, for example prior to COVID-19, the Youth Service had presented on climate change, with the PSB considering what impact it could make working collaboratively and as individual agencies.

The Chairman in conclusion considered that the lessons learned from the COVID pandemic he hoped would provide people with more opportunities for Active Travel and that it was important that all Scrutiny Committees, where the work of the PSB fell within their remit, considered such reports at future meetings in detail within their service areas.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Annual Report 2019-20 and the progress partners were making in implementing the priorities set out in the Wellbeing Plan be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be informed that in future, the Scrutiny Committee considered it appropriate that regular reports on the Public Services Board priorities and strands be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees in order that more in-depth scrutiny within their remits can be undertaken within their respective Scrutiny Committee work programmes.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having considered the content of the Annual Report and the progress being made in the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan.
- (2) In order that all the Scrutiny Committees of the Council can consider the relevant Public Services Board activity within their portfolios aligned with, within their work programmes.”

The reference from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee was circulated at the meeting.

With regard to Recommendation (2), it was noted that the Public Service Board was a stand-alone body and information referred to Cabinet was subsequently referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as the lead Committee. The Committee had considered that there were issues within the Public Service Board's remit that could have benefit to discussion at other Scrutiny Committees within the Council. Cabinet felt this was a reasonable request and were happy to endorse the request as a beneficial way forward.

The Managing Director agreed that it was an ideal way for all the Scrutiny Committees to be sighted on the work of the Public Health Board.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Annual Report 2019-20 and the progress partners were making in implementing the priorities set out in the Wellbeing Plan be noted.

(2) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee consideration that regular reports on the Public Services Board priorities and strands be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees in order that more in-depth scrutiny within their remits can be undertaken within their respective Scrutiny Committee work programmes be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To note the contents of the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Annual Report 2019-20.

(2) To endorse that regular reports on the Public Services Board priorities and strands be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees in order that more in-depth scrutiny within their remits can be undertaken within their respective Scrutiny Committee work programmes.