

CABINET

Minutes of a Cabinet meeting held on 7th June, 2021.

The Cabinet agenda is available [here](#).

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

Also Present: Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson.

C577 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

C578 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Name of Councillor	Nature of Interest
Councillor N. Moore	The interest related to Agenda Item 6 – ‘Q4 Sickness Absence Report 2020/2021’. Councillor Moore had dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote at meetings of the Vale of Glamorgan Council when matters relating to the review of Council employment terms and conditions were considered in view of his daughter being employed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	The interest related to Agenda Item 6 – ‘Q4 Sickness Absence Report 2020/2021’. Councillor Mrs. Wilkinson had dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote at meetings of the Vale of Glamorgan Council when matters relating to the review of Council employment terms and conditions were considered in view of her son being employed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

C579 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL –

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 22nd March, 2021 as contained within the agenda were submitted.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health drew the Cabinet Members’ attention to the following:

- Panel were keen to hear how young people, and in particular those who were looked after, had been supported during the pandemic;
- Presentations were received from a primary and secondary school that had provided hub support during the pandemic;
- The meeting was also attended by the advocacy provider who advised how they had supported young people.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 22nd March, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the minutes.

C580 JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM –

The minutes of Joint Consultative Forum meeting held on 19th April, 2021 as contained within the agenda were submitted.

The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources drew the Cabinet Members' attention to the following:

- Discussions that had taken place regarding the Wellbeing Survey;
- Not everyone had access to online services and therefore alternative options had been put in place;
- The update concerning the Oracle HR system;
- Discussions concerning Social Care payments.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 19th April, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

C581 Q4 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2020/2021 (EL / PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The report sets out the sickness absence figures for the 12-month period 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021 as part of the agreed performance management arrangements.

There had been a significant decrease in absence levels for the whole of 2020/2021 compared with the same 12-month period for the previous financial year. The absence rates were set out in paragraph 4.1 and showed a decrease from 10.51 days lost per FTE (April 2019 to March 2020) to 8.59 days lost per FTE (April 2020 to March 2021). The annual target figure (April 2020 to March 2021) was set as 9.20 days lost per FTE.

The Leader said that clearly the pandemic had had a major impact in terms of staffing, often working from home, remotely or hot-desking where applicable. Frontline staff, such as for waste collection, highway maintenance and parks, had been working throughout the pandemic to maintain day-to-day services for residents. Staff working from home may have contributed to the drop in sickness levels. Staff had shown a great deal of flexibility in how they had worked and managed to achieve during the pandemic.

Councillor Burnett said that it was to be expected that during a year of ever-changing priorities and needs the levels of non-work-related stress had increased, particularly with those who had to work from home and home-school children also. A large number of staff had also been re-purposed across Directorates, e.g. to assist with the distribution of Business Support Grants. Cabinet had recognised that further work was required to take advantage of lessons learned as a result of the pandemic in terms of how staff work, whilst understanding that working remotely did not suit everyone.

Councillor Gray said that there was an understanding that frontline services had been maintained throughout the pandemic, referring particularly to residential and care home staff who had shown a desire to keep on working and do the best they could for their clients. Staff within the Social Services portfolio had been repurposed as part of the PPE teams. The report showed how hard people had been working and it was important to learn more to be able to support staff more.

Councillor King endorsed the comments made and referred to efforts made by the large number of employees within Neighbourhood Services and Transport during the pandemic, where staff had continued to be accessible and paid tribute to those frontline workers who continued their roles for the benefit of residents, e.g. household recycling and waste, during constantly changing conditions.

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 twelve-month (April 2020 to March 2021) sickness absence figures provided in Appendix A be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with any comments referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To enable the Scrutiny Committee to maintain a continued focus on the management of sickness absence throughout all services of the Council and to make recommendations to Cabinet, as appropriate.

C582 THE UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUNDS BID GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (EL / PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funds (the Levelling Up Fund) were announced as part of the UK Government 2020 Spending Review. The Levelling Up Fund would focus on capital investment in local infrastructure and was intended to build upon and consolidate prior programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund.

The report sought authority from Cabinet to submit an initial bid under the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, and to set out an agile governance structure sufficient to allow submission within the deadlines set out in the programme guidance.

The Leader commented that in his view transport bids may be where the Authority should concentrate initially.

Councillor Burnett added that transport and regeneration bids were most likely, but any bid would have to be strong, 'shovel-ready' and deliverable by 2024. Work was currently being undertaken to put together any potential bid/s that may be submitted by the 18th June, 2021 deadline or in advance of any second tranche.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning confirmed that Officers were working on putting information together regarding any potential transport bids for this year. Projects would have to be ready this year so a potential bid may not be feasible within the first round but would be explored to potentially put forward the strongest bid possible.

The Leader agreed that any potential bid would have to be strong in order to be considered.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein amended Recommendations (2), (3) and (7) as outlined below

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Levelling Up Fund Prospectus attached at Appendix A to the report and the Community Renewal Fund Prospectus (attached at Appendix B to the report) be noted.

(2) T H A T the production and submission of a bid to both the Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund in line with the themes and objectives set

out in the report, provided the bid be available and ready to start by the submission date, be supported.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer), in liaison with the Operational Manager (Regeneration) to agree the content of the bid prior to submission.

(4) T H A T the Head of Regeneration and Planning be given delegated powers to procure any consultancy support that will be needed for the production of bid/s to the fund subject to the need for any financial or procurement resources required given the urgency of the process, being agreed by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer under the waiver process.

(5) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated powers to review and agree any contractual arrangements should they be required to facilitate the process of making a bid/s.

(6) T H A T the Head of Regeneration and Planning be given delegated powers to allocate funds from the Barry Regeneration Programme to facilitate the bid/s. Such funds to be reinstated as and when the UK Government provides the revenue support as advised in the Fund Protocol advice.

(7) T H A T the response to the bid by the UK Government, should they be submitted, be reported back to Cabinet in due course, together with more detailed governance arrangements relating to the delivery of any successful bid.

(8) T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order to meet the deadline set by the UK Government for making initial bids under the Levelling Up Programme of 18th June, 2021.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) That Cabinet supports the submission of a bid to each fund, given the opportunity to support investment in the Vale of Glamorgan.

(3) To facilitate an agile response to the funding opportunity and to provide a governance structure in line with the Council's Project Management Toolkit.

(4) To facilitate an agile response to the bidding deadline whilst giving consideration to the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Guidelines.

(5) To facilitate the sign off of any contractual matters should they be required as part of the bid submission process.

- (6) To provide immediate access to funding in support of the bid submission process.
- (7) In order to report back to Cabinet on the success or failure of the bids and any advice received from the funding body.
- (8) The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

C583 CONSULTATION RESPONSE: WELSH GOVERNMENT'S RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR AN ANTI-RACIST WALES (EL / PR) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The report presented Cabinet with the Council's draft consultation response and sought its views and approval to make a final submission to the consultation on Welsh Government's Race Equality Action Plan (REAP) for an Anti-Racist Wales

The Leader referred to bullet point 5 of the Executive Summary within the report, which was incorrect, stating that the consultation period would end on 17th June, 2021. That date had subsequently changed, with the consultation period now ending on 15th July, 2021. The consultation deadline period had been changed during the last week by Welsh Government and was correct in paragraph 1.5 of the report, but not within the Executive Summary. The change in date now allowed the matter to be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for their views and consideration.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft consultation response as described and in Appendix A to the report be approved, subject to the comments of Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration and the views of the Council's Equalities Champion on the report be also sought.
- (4) T H A T any comments received from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Equalities Champion be considered in order to finalise the Council's consultation response for submission to Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having considered the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To gain approval in principle for the draft consultation response.
- (3) To enable the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Equalities Champion to consider the report.
- (4) To enable a response to be submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline of 15th July, 2021

C584 BARRY TOWN CENTRE GATEWAY REGENERATION PROJECT (COMPOUND AND CLINIC SITES) (DL / ER) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The report provided an update regarding Barry Town Centre Gateway Regeneration project and its objective to deliver a range of new affordable homes (and if required, private market homes), integrated with health facilities and commercial uses at the western end of Barry town centre.

Councillor Burnett advised that Councillor Dr. I.J Johnson had responded to the consultation as a local ward Member:-

"In principle I support the development of the indicated sites for housing with integrated health facilities and commercial use as appropriate.

However, I would not want to see over-development of the area in a way that makes the housing element disproportionate in size and impact. Any development should be beneficial for Barry, a pleasant location in which to live and linked in with the surrounding area.

I note that the current plans are not a Masterplan for the indicated Regeneration Area. Given the length of time before any development takes place (the initial Cabinet report on this was in April 2017), I would welcome consideration on how the rest of the indicated area will be improved, including the buildings within the indicated area and pedestrian crossing of Gladstone Road near the roundabout."

Councillor Burnett noted that commercial uses were not relevant to this report as part of the overall Barry Town Centre Gateway Regeneration project and agreed with his comments concerning over-development and development being beneficial for Barry. With regards the length of time before any development took place, Councillor Burnett said she had been the Cabinet Member in April 2017 but was not for the following two years, and subsequently there had been a global pandemic. Negotiations had to take place with both the Health Board and Welsh Government which could take time and there had been Cabinet reports in the interim on other aspects of the project, e.g. the Post Office site and Haydock House.

The Leader said that some aspects of the project had been delayed as matters had changed over time, but the report showed that matters were progressing.

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 Barry Town Centre Gateway Regeneration Project aimed at redeveloping the Gladstone Road Bridge Compound Site and Broad St Clinic Site (identified in Appendix B to the report) be endorsed, subject to the appropriate legislative provisions, statutory consents and funding.

(2) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and Head of Finance) to negotiate and agree terms with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board for the Council to purchase the freehold interest in the Broad Street Clinic Site pursuant to the principles and best practices of the Welsh Government's Estate Co-ordination and Land Transfer Protocol.

(3) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and Head of Finance) to negotiate and agree terms to dispose of (by virtue of a long lease), circa 520m² health clinic (within part of the proposed redevelopment of the Gladstone Road Bridge Compound Site) to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board at less than best consideration with the required consent under the General Disposal Consent (Wales) 2003 and pursuant to the principles and best practices of the Welsh Government's Estate Co-ordination and Land Transfer Protocol.

(4) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director and Head of Finance) to submit and accept grant applications to secure funding towards the cost of the project.

(5) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Housing and Building Services (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director, Head of Regeneration and Planning and Head of Finance) to procure and appoint a design team and other consultants as may be required to achieve project delivery, subject to funding.

(6) T H A T authority be granted to the Head of Housing and Building Services (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Managing Director, Head of Regeneration and Planning and Head of Finance) to submit a planning application(s) for the project by virtue of either Regulation 3 or Regulation 4 of The Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (As Amended).

(7) T H A T the fallback option of only redeveloping the Gladstone Road Bridge Compound Site be endorsed in principle, if it was not possible to facilitate the redevelopment of the Broad Street Clinic Site as part of the project, subject to a further Cabinet Report if this alternative option be pursued.

(8) T H A T authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, execute and complete all legal documentation required to acquire and dispose of land and procure and facilitate the delivery of the project.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To obtain endorsement from Cabinet for the Barry Town Centre Gateway Regeneration Project and its delivery subject to statutory consents and funding.

(2) To obtain authority to purchase the freehold interest of the Broad Street Clinic Site.

(3) To obtain authority to dispose by virtue of a long lease the proposed new Clinic accommodation that would be provided as part of the redevelopment of the Gladstone Road Bridge Compound Site.

(4) To obtain authority to submit and accept grant applications for the project.

(5) To obtain authority to procure and appoint the design team and other consultants as may be required for the project.

(6) To obtain authority to submit planning application(s) for the project.

(7) To obtain an endorsement for the fallback option of only redeveloping the Gladstone Road Bridge Compound Site if required, subject to a separate future Cabinet Report, if pursued.

(8) To obtain authority for the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, execute and complete all legal documentation required to facilitate the delivery of the project.

C585 REGISTRATION SERVICES - BESPOKE CEREMONIES (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The report sought Cabinet approval to introduce additional services and associated fees and charges within the Council's Registration Services department for 2021/22.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the introduction of additional fees for the Registration Service as set out in the Report to commence on the date that Cabinet's resolution takes effect be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having considered the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To improve the options available to both Vale of Glamorgan residents and non-residents in choosing the Vale of Glamorgan for their ceremony and to obtain Cabinet's approval to introduce associated fees and charges.

C586 BARRY DOCKS TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE WELTAG STAGE TWO (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The report provided Cabinet with an update on progress of the Barry Docks Transport Interchange WelTAG Stage Two Outline Business Case study and recommended that the study be taken forward to Stage 3 of the WelTAG process during the 2021/22 financial year, subject to funding being approved by Welsh Government for continuation of the work.

Councillor Burnett said that Barry Station was well used but, as there were accessibility issues, would be interested to gather people's views on how to better access this and other aspects of public transport.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on the Barry Docks Transport Interchange WelTAG Stage Two study be noted.
- (2) T H A T it be agreed in principle to support the taking forward of Option 2, detailed within the study, for further consideration at the next stage of assessment, based on the potential social, cultural and economic benefits and value for money identified.
- (3) T H A T, subject to the consideration of this matter by the relevant Scrutiny Committee and funding being approved by Welsh Government for the continuation of the works, the study be taken forward to Stage 3 of the WelTAG process during the 2021/22 financial year.

(4) T H A T this matter be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having considered the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To agree in principle the preferred option from the Stage 2 Report.
- (3) To allow this project to progress subject to the views of the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Welsh Government funding being available. A transport grant submission had already been made to Welsh Government for 2021/22 in preparation to take forward the WeITAG Stage Three report in line with WeITAG (2017) guidance. Following completion, that Stage Three Report would also be reported to a Review Group and then to Cabinet.
- (4) To allow consideration of the matter by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to any final decisions being taken.

C587 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The report noted proposals for the award of several highway maintenance contracts for highway surfacing and treatment for the period 2021 to 2023 and advised of approval that would be sought later on the agenda to award new contracts allowing the highway maintenance team to continue to maintain the adopted highway through the use of specialist external contractors.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted and considered in connection with the Part II report later on the agenda.
- (2) T H A T as part of the contract award process, the successful contractors would be advised by a letter addendum to the contract that all excess waste from sites must be appropriately disposed of and not used to undertake other projects unless agreed in advance by the Operational Manager Engineering or the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To publicly advise of the proposals for renewal of a number of highway maintenance contracts and to allow the commercially sensitive details of these

proposals to be appropriately considered prior to a decision being taken on any award.

(2) To improve future arrangements for the management and use of excess waste materials associated with highways surfacing and treatment works.

**C588 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT: 2020/21 (SCH)
(SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

There was Corporate responsibility to ensure that there were effective arrangements in place for safeguarding children and adults who required specific Council services. The Annual Report 2020/21 provided an overview of the Corporate Safeguarding activities taking place across the Local Authority.

Councillor Gray said there had been an increase in child protection numbers due to the pandemic, notably where there were complex situations in larger families and where domestic violence played a significant part.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the work that had been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.

(2) T H A T six monthly reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the effectiveness of relevant Policies continue to be received by Cabinet.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of this key area of corporate working and be assured of effective safeguarding taking place.

(3) To respond to requests that each Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee (given the previous Wales Audit Office Report) were provided with a safeguarding update.

C589 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The report sought Cabinet approval regarding the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel following the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Meeting, held on 10th May, 2021.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the Corporate Parenting Panel be re-appointed, with its membership comprising 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Labour Group Members and 1 Member each from the Plaid Cymru Group, Llantwit First Independents Group and the Vale Independents Group.

Reason for decision

To facilitate the ongoing role of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

C590 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC -

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

C591 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 13 AND 14) –

The report sought approval to award new contracts for highway surfacing and treatment allowing the highway maintenance team to continue to maintain the adopted highway through the use of specialist external contractors.

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 contract for Highway Resurfacing repairs be awarded to Tarmac Trading LTD until 31st March, 2023.

(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 and the Head of Finance to extend the contract detailed in Resolution (1) above for a further final year to 31st March, 2024, should this be advantageous to the Council at this time.

(3) T H A T the contract for Highway Surface Dressing be awarded to RMS LTD until 31st March, 2023.

(4) T H A T the contract for Highway Micro Asphalt treatment be awarded to Alun Griffiths LTD until 31st March, 2023.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to draft and execute the contracts identified in Resolutions (1) to (4) above.

Reasons for decisions

(1-4) To award the contracts to the companies providing the most advantageous tenders and to ensure compliance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

(5) To ensure that the necessary legal documentation is in place for the contracts.