

CABINET

Minutes of a Cabinet meeting held on 8th November, 2021.

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

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

C715 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

C716 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

C717 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

C718 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GAMBLING ACT 2005 2022-2025 (REF) –

The reference from the Statutory Licensing Committee of 21st September, 2021 had been presented for consideration as contained within the agenda.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services in presenting the reference noted the absence of the reporting of local trends as a result of the pandemic and was surprised that there had been no significant rise in gambling reported as a result of COVID-19.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Statement of Principles for its gambling functions for the period 2022-2025 be endorsed and refer the same to Full Council on 6th December, 2021 for approval and adoption.

Reason for decision

To ensure that the Council fulfilled its statutory duty as a licensing authority.

C719 RURAL ROADS POLICY - REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – EWENNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL (REF) –

The reference from the Community Liaison Committee of 4th October, 2021 had been presented for consideration as contained within the agenda.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport in presenting the reference noted the wide-ranging debate that took place at the Community Liaison Committee meeting which led to the request for consideration that Cabinet be requested to consider the establishment of a specific Rural Roads Policy for the Vale of Glamorgan area and its content compiled in collaboration with all Town and Community Councils.

Councillor King was yet to be convinced of the benefit of such a policy which could be followed by further policies for Towns and Trunk Roads which would be based on existing Council statutory duties and policies and procedures that already considered the nature of each road. He added that Highways Officers were also currently working to deliver a number of other policies, as well as under significant pressure in completing background work towards the implementation of the 20mph scheme proposed by the Welsh Government.

As such, Councillor King believed that existing policies adequately covered the matter and requested that Cabinet note the request for consideration from Ewenny Community Council.

The Leader added that many of the issues discussed were issues that could be attributed to many roads in the Vale of Glamorgan, not just rural areas, e.g., speeding, use of rat runs, etc. Some rural roads were set as national speed limits and not a matter for the Council to address.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the request for consideration from Ewenny Community Council be noted.

Reason for decision

The Council meets its statutory duties, policies and procedures that already consider the nature of each road.

**C720 DRAFT WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Welsh Language Standards (Standards 145 and 146) required Local Authorities to:

- produce and publish a five-year strategy setting out how they intend to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of Welsh more widely in their area;
- include a target for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in the area by the end of the five-year period;
- include a statement explaining how the organisation intended to reach that target;
- review the strategy and publish a revised version of it on the website within five years of the date of publication of the strategy (or the date of publication of a revised version of it);
- after five years, assess the extent to which the Council had followed that strategy and met the target it had set;
- publish the assessment on the website, showing the number of Welsh speakers in the Local Authority's area, and the age of those speakers;
- note in the assessment a list of activities arranged or funded by them to promote the Welsh language during the previous five years.

The report presented Cabinet with an assessment of the 2017-22 Promotion Strategy and a draft of a new five-year strategy for the 2022-27 period. The report sought Cabinet approval to consult on these documents in order to inform and finalise the 2022-27 Promotion Strategy and to inform the development of an action plan to pursue its commitments.

The Leader was pleased that the assessment had concluded that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had clearly made significant progress since 2017 in terms of promoting the Welsh language, both internally and publicly, and had done so against a backdrop of ongoing austerity and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic conditions. There were strong foundations upon which to build and many of the targets and actions would continue into the new Strategy. Much had changed since 2017 however, and so the draft strategy reflected current circumstances and had adapted its approach in some areas.

Cabinet Members were asked to consider and approve the draft as the basis for consultation as described in the indicative timetable in Paragraph 2.11 of the report.

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 the assessment of the current strategy (Appendix A to the report) be noted.

(2) T H A T the draft Welsh language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 (Appendix B to the report) be approved as the basis for consultation as described in the report.

(3) T H A T the consultation approach and timetable as set out in the report be approved.

(4) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as part of the programme of consultation.

(5) T H A T Cabinet receives a further report setting out the results of the consultation, a draft final version of the 2022-27 strategy, and accompanying action plan in due course.

Reasons for decisions

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

(2) To the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2022-27) be approved for consultation.

(3) To ensure that effective consultation is undertaken within the necessary timeframes for publishing the Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

(4) To ensure that all relevant Scrutiny Committees have the opportunity to consider the Draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and provide feedback as part of the programme of consultation.

(5) To ensure that a revised Welsh Language Promotion Strategy can be published in line with the statutory deadline set by the Welsh Language Commissioner

C721 LOCAL AVERAGE INTEREST RATE (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

Local Authorities must set interest rates on mortgages arranged since 3rd October, 1980. This rate must be set for every period of six months or earlier if required by the Welsh Government. Authorities must charge whichever was the higher of the local average rate, or the Standard National Rate.

The rate of interest currently charged on the Council's mortgages was 4.96%. The local average interest rate had been calculated at 4.84%.

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 Vale of Glamorgan Council declare the local average rate of interest of 4.84% from 1st November, 2021 and to reduce the Council's mortgage interest from 4.96% to 4.84% with effect from 1st November, 2021.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources to set the rate when the rate changes by less than 0.2%.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To ensure that the interest rate is recalculated in accordance with statutory requirements.

C722 SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY BASED COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (DL/ER) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The report sought approval to undertake a tendering exercise and enter into a contract for the delivery of a School and Community Based Counselling Service in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council had delivered a School and Community Based Counselling service since the release of Welsh Government funds (2008) in response to the CLWCH report in 2004. The service had always been tendered out and provided independent, highly praised and valuable services to all young people aged 11-19 in the Council's 8 secondary schools, special school and various other settings.

The service last year provided a valuable therapeutic intervention to over 180 young people through in excess of 600 sessions. This was significantly lower than pre-Covid numbers where the number of young people accessing the service was over 400 per year and over 2,000 sessions per year. As a preventive service it reduced stress and anxiety leading to reduced need for young people to access higher level services.

The Deputy Leader referred to a Pupil Voice event held recently where young people continued to be concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of their fellow young people.

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 information provided and the positive impact of the service on young people since its inception be noted and delegated authority be granted to the

Director of Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, to prepare and issue tender documents in order to procure a new contract for the provision of counselling services.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member of Education and Regeneration, to tender for and award a contract for a School and Community Based Counselling service

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Director of Learning and Skills, to execute a contract with the successful bidder.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) To ensure contract standing orders and financial regulations are followed and that officers enter appropriate arrangements to procure and deliver a service.

C723 CARDIFF AND VALE ADVOCACY STRATEGY (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The Cardiff and Vale Strategy for Adult Advocacy Services was developed by Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services in partnership with Cardiff Adult Services and the Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Network. The strategy set out how anyone engaging with adult social care in the region was fully included in all decisions and was able to fully participate in the assessment and care planning processes as equal partners.

The Strategy would form the basis of a new contractual relationship with Advocacy providers across the region by:

- Adopting a systemic co-productive approach with all stakeholders;
- Forming purposeful, collaborative relationships between Local Authorities, health boards and providers;
- Sharing a common understanding of what advocacy is and the specific role of independent advocacy; and
- Sharing a common agreement about when independent Professional Advocacy was appropriate, always considering its accessibility and application alongside other forms of advocacy.

The Cabinet Member in referring to the report said that it was recognised that every voice needed to be heard and that their needs were met. An additional Resolution was proposed to refer the Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Strategy to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for information, which was agreed in order keep Scrutiny informed.

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 and the publication of the Cardiff and Vale Strategy for Adult Advocacy Services be approved.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, to oversee regional arrangements for the procurement of new contracts for the provision of Adult Advocacy across the region, for which Cardiff Council will take the lead.
- (3) T H A T that the re-commissioning of Adult Advocacy Services be led by Cardiff Council on behalf of the region be approved.
- (4) T H A T the Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Strategy be referred to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for information.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure Cabinet was updated on the aims and ambitions for Advocacy Services to support citizens to fully participate in decisions relating to their own care and support.
- (2) To ensure that the process for progressing the procurement of new Adult Advocacy contracts was undertaken efficiently and effectively in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.
- (3) To ensure oversight of the re-commissioning of Adult Advocacy Services by Cardiff Council on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (4) To provide Members of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee with the Cardiff and Vale Advocacy Strategy.

C724 EXTERNAL FUNDING – FAMILIES FIRST (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The report sought Cabinet approval to undertake a procurement exercise for the delivery of a number of early intervention and support services.

Cabinet was also aware that a number of the projects were directly provided by the Council.

The Cabinet Member in referring to the report pointed to the amount of work completed under the Families First banner, specifically the seven distinct projects that existed under the Families First Plan during 2020-21 as described in paragraph 1.4 of the report.

Those important projects would be continuing, but paragraph 2.3 of the report also described how additional funding would allow further expansion to additional projects.

Councillor Gray also paid tribute to those staff who had provided essential services during the pandemic and supported those families who needed to access those services. There were cross-Portfolio teams outside of Social Services in Learning and Culture, Leisure, etc. who had also worked in partnership to support families where necessary.

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 be noted and the utilisation of the Families First grant be supported.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Children and Young People Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, to negotiate and execute appropriate contractual arrangements with delivery partners, including where re-tendering was required, to ensure the provision of a Families First Plan as described in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.
- (3) T H A T Officers across all Directorates be thanked for the amount of work carried out in order to provide services to the public throughout the pandemic.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure Cabinet was aware of, and supported, how the grant was being used to deliver Families First in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (2) To obtain the authority of Cabinet to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements with delivery partners in furtherance of the Families First Plan.
- (3) To show appreciation for the work carried out by Officers to maintain services.