

**CABINET**

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021

The Committee 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.

**C725 ANNOUNCEMENT –**

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chairman 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.”

**C726 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**C727 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –****Name of Councillor**

Councillor M.R. Wilkinson

**Nature of Interest**

The interest related to Agenda Item 13 – ‘Initial Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2022/23 and Revised Budget 2021/22’. Councillor Wilkinson had a personal interest as a Council Tenant, however, an exception to the prejudicial rules applied which meant that she was able to remain in the meeting, discuss and vote on the matter.

**C728 BARRY BIOMASS INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT (REF) –**

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 was presented.

The Leader explained that this was a comprehensive report and covered all aspects and elements as part of the review undertaken by an independent reviewer / barrister who addressed a number of questions at the meeting of Scrutiny.

At Scrutiny, it was recommended that the report be referred back to Cabinet for consideration and ultimately on to Council for further debate.

Both the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services stated that it had always been the intention that the report be brought back to Council for consideration and discussion by Members.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED - T H A T the Barry Biomass Independent Review Report be endorsed and referred to Full Council on 6th December, 2021 for consideration.

Reason for decision

For democratic transparency and the view that there should be a debate on this matter at Council.

**C729 THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
(ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS) ORDER 2021 (REF) –**

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 was presented.

Both the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services stated that this was a comprehensive report and all Elected Members had already had an opportunity to look at it and it would also be going to Full Council for further consideration and ratification in order to take effect from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in readiness for the 2022 Local Elections.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the County Borough of the Vale of Glamorgan (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021 (“the Order”) attached at Appendix A to the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the consequential electoral ward boundary be noted, and that the revisions to the Polling Districts as detailed at Appendix B to the report be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the reference to the Polling Districts as detailed at Appendix C be noted subject to the deletion of the reference to the polling district JGO as this was a typographical error.
- (4) T H A T the report be referred to Council for consideration and for reference to the Community Liaison Committee and all Town and Community Councils within the Vale of Glamorgan.

Reasons for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(4) In order that Council are sighted on the Order, the associated electoral ward boundaries, and the reference changes to the Polling Districts; and that the Community Liaison Committee and all Town and Community Councils are apprised of the same.

**C730 POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS: MINI-REVIEW (REF) –**

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 was presented by the Leader in relation to a mini review of changes to polling stations and places. Scrutiny had endorsed the changes to the polling stations and asked Cabinet for their approval.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the proposed changes to the Polling Places and / or Polling Stations as set out in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.17 of the report be approved.

(2) T H A T, subject to Appendix 5 being amended to refer to Polling Stations A and B being within the Glenbrook Inn, that the report be referred to Council for consideration with a view to approving the proposed changes with immediate effect and to all Town and Community Councils and the Community Liaison Committee for information.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the Council's statutory functions under the Representation of the People Act 1983; and pre-Cabinet scrutiny of the proposals contained in the report which would assist with improving electors' voting experience and raise awareness and following discussions at the meeting regarding Glenbrook Inn.

**C731 GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST ADVISORY GROUP -**

The minutes of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

The Deputy Leader, who attended the meeting of the group, added that it had been extremely useful in that it had provided details on the extensive work and wide range of activities being undertaken such as the 'Summer of Fun' activities provided by the Council, notably through the Countryside and Heritage Coast Team. There was also an update from the Council's Ecology Officer on the work

being done under the Nature Partnership. The Leader also noted that the new Nature Recovery Action Plan had been discussed.

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C732 SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE: 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services wished to give credit to the staff employed under SRS in dealing with Covid-19 measures, the positive outcomes from the Audit report, and their other extensive work, from communicable diseases through to enforcing business regulations, prosecutions and being utilised in connection with Track and Trace. SRS had currently an underspend which could be used to help with further recruitment of staff for this vital and expanding service if approved.

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C733 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AND REVISED BUDGET FOR 2021/22 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES).**

The purpose of the report was to gain Cabinet's approval for the amended revenue budget for 2021/22 and to advise Cabinet of the progress relating to revenue expenditure for the period 1st April to 30th September 2021.

The revenue position for 2021/22 would continue to be challenging for the Council both operationally and financially due to COVID-19 pandemic. This impacted both as a result of incurring additional expenditure but also from a loss of income. Confirmation had been received from Welsh Government that funding to cover some of the issues would be received up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The funding provided to Social Service care by the Hardship Fund would also taper off during the remainder for the financial year.

The Council continued to make claims for expenditure, loss of income and funding from Welsh Government for COVID-19 related expenditure.

There were projected overspends for Learning and Skills, Social Services and Environment and Housing which would be met from their respective reserves.

The projected outturn for Policy is a favourable variance of £4m. It is projected that there will be a favourable variance of £2m relating to capital charges and current estimates project that the Council Tax budget will outturn with a surplus on collection of £2m.

An efficiency target of £500k had been set for the year and services were working towards achieving their targets with no efficiency targets set for schools. However, it was currently anticipated that savings may not be fully achieved this year and there could be a £170k shortfall against the target.

It was believed there would be limited or no grant funding going forward.

The Cabinet Members for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, Housing and Building Services and Social Care and Health referred to the financial and resourcing pressures experienced within their portfolios such as staff shortages, increased costs in materials, wages and care provided. However, services had continued to operate effectively, and measures were being taken to overcome such problems, i.e., a recruitment drive to encourage more social care staff

The Leader and Deputy Leader added that there was still the possibility of additional grants and funding that could be provided as well as the capability to still draw down on reserves when needed.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

It being noted that each Scrutiny Committee would receive a monitoring report relating to their respective areas, Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2021/22 Revenue Budget be noted.
- (2) T H A T the amended revenue budget for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration as lead Scrutiny Committee.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform Cabinet of the projected revenue outturn for 2021/22.
- (2) To incorporate changes to the 2021/22 budget.

- (3) To advise Members of financial position.

**C734 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the progress on the 2021/22 Capital Programme for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and to request changes to the Capital Programme.

The report provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1st April to 30th September 2021 and were detailed by scheme as shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

Of note, there had been an increase in costs for a number of schemes due to an uplift in plant and material costs. Also outlined was the provision of Welsh Government grants to fund initiatives such as the Food Pod and Early Years, as well as the receipt of funding for Active Travel schemes and local transport schemes within the Vale. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on this programme would continue to be monitored.

The report set out requested changes to the 2021/22 and future years Capital Programme.

There were also a number of new schemes, some of which undertaken via Emergency Powers.

The Deputy Leader referred to the use of Emergency Powers to help implement schemes, such as the Penarth Food Pod, which demonstrated that the Council could implement key or urgently needed schemes quickly and thanked officers for their tireless work on such schemes.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport referred to the Active Travel Fund Grant which would contribute towards dealing with climate change and reducing air pollution.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

It being noted that each Scrutiny Committee would receive a monitoring report relating to their respective areas, Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

**RESOLVED -**

- (1) T H A T the progress made on the 2021/22 Capital Programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources as lead Scrutiny Committee.

- (3) T H AT the use of Delegated Authority in relation to the following be noted:
- Evenlode Primary Lighting Upgrade - Vire £15k from the Education Asset Renewal Contingency budget, to the 'Evenlode Primary Lighting Upgrade' budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
  - Old Hall, Cowbridge Replacement Boiler - Vire £15.4k of the Education Asset Renewal Contingency budget, to the 'Old Hall, Cowbridge Replacement Boiler' scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
  - Flying Start - Family Centre Heating System - Vire £11k of the Social Services unallocated Asset Renewal budget to the 'Flying Start - Family Centre Heating System' scheme.
  - Llandough Bus Shelter - Increase the Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme by £10,917 to be funded from s106 monies.
  - Penarth Pier Pavilion - Vire £12.5k from the Coastal Infrastructure Asset Renewal budget to the Penarth Pier pavilion scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
  - Barry Island Public Convenience Improvements - Vire £14k from the Parks scheme budget to a new scheme called Barry Island Public Convenience Improvements in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
  - Public Open Space Tree Planting - Increase the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £31,259 using to be funded from S106 monies.
  - BSC2 - Vire £202,521 from the 2021/22 Barry Regeneration Project Development Fund scheme to the BSC2 scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- (4) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers in relation to the following be noted:
- Childcare Offer Capital Grant - Increase this scheme budget by £145k to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
  - Cadoxton Sports Hall Relighting - Include this new scheme into the 2021/22 Capital Programme with a budget of £11.5k to be funded by a contribution from the Carbon Reduction Legacy fund revenue budget.
  - Band B Cowbridge Primary Provision - Increase the budget by £280k in the 2022/23 capital programme, to be funded from S106 monies.
  - Band B Centre for Learning and Wellbeing - Carry forward £313k of the Band B contingency budget and allocate to the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing scheme in the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
  - Band B Ysgol Y Deri - Carry forward £300k of the Band B contingency budget and allocate to the Ysgol Y Deri Expansion scheme in the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
  - Flying Start Grant - Include two new schemes (Skomer Road Crèche £45k and Pili Pala Works £15k) in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government and vire £40k from the Flying Start Security Shutters scheme to the Flying Start Skomer Road Crèche scheme.
  - Ty Dyfan and Cartref Dementia Improvements - Vire £20k of the internal funding within the Ty Dyfan and Cartref Dementia Improvements to a new scheme called 'Ty Dewi Sant - Hairdressing room and Office Refurbishment' in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.

- Active Travel Fund Grant - Increase the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £790k to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government for the schemes listed in paragraph 2.19.
- Penarth Food Pod - Include this scheme with a budget of £26,365 in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- Cowbridge Leisure Centre Roofing - Vire £17k from the Leisure Centres Works scheme budget to the Cowbridge Leisure Centre Roofing scheme budget, in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Llanmaes Flood Management - Increase this scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £95,664 to be funded from Welsh Government grant.
- Local Transport Fund Barry Dock Interchange - Increase the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £327k to be funded by a grant from Merthyr Borough Council acting as lead body for the allocation of funds from the Metro Plus Programme.
- Sport Wales Grant - Increase the Sports Wales grant scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £44.9k to be funded £41.9k from s106 monies and £3k from the Sports Wales.

(5) T H A T the following changes to the 2021/22 and future years Capital Programme be approved:

- Band B Schemes - Reprofile the Band B schemes as set out in paragraph 2.10.
- Ysgol Y Deri Minibus - Include a new scheme in the capital programme called 'Ysgol Y Deri Minibus' with a budget a £26k to be funded by a revenue contribution from the school.
- High Street Primary Rewire - Vire £18k to this scheme from the Education Asset Renewal Contingency scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme
- St Athan Station Investigation Work - Remove this scheme with a budget of £15k from the 2021/22 capital programme.
- Bus stop Upgrades - Vire this £5k budget to the Local Transport Fund - Bus Stop Improvements scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Vehicles Renewal Fund - Carry forward £634k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Road Safety 20mph pilot St Brides Major - Include a budget of £34k in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- Penarth Marina Land Slip Works - Include this new scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded a contribution from the Policy revenue budget.
- Vale Enterprise Centre New Windows - Change the name of this scheme to Vale Enterprise Centre Compliance Works.
- Cosmeston Works Programme - Vire £120k in the 2022/23 Capital Programme from the Cosmeston Works Programme scheme to a new scheme called Porthkerry Park Play Area Refurbishment and also bring forward £14k from the 2022/23 Capital Programme to the



2021/22 Capital Programme and allocate this to the Cosmeston Gateway - Brilliant Basics Grant scheme.

- Wales Coast Path - Penarth to Lavernock - Vire the £49k budget to the Coastal Access Grant scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Barry Regeneration Partnership Project Fund - Carry forward £332k of this budget to the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Court Road Depot - Survey, Feasibility and Infrastructure Budget - Change the name of this scheme to Court Road Depot Relocation.
- Space Project - reduced office accommodation - vire this £11k budget to All Services Asset Renewal scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Hwb Programme - It is requested to vire £30k to this budget from the ICT allocation scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- City Deal - Reprofile this scheme expenditure as set out in paragraph 2.39.

### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To advise Cabinet of the progress on the Capital Programme.
- (2) To advise Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of the progress on the Capital Programme.
- (3) To advise Cabinet of the use of Delegated Authority.
- (4) To advise Cabinet of the use of Emergency Powers.
- (5) To allow schemes to proceed in the current and future financial years.

### **C735 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2021/22 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader outlined the report, the purpose of which was to provide a mid-year report on the Authority's Treasury Management operations for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. All activities were in accordance with the Authority's approved strategy on Treasury Management.

The report referred to the external influences on Treasury Management, such as COVID-19, pressure on prices on energy and fuel, issues with supply chains, inflation and others both at the UK and global levels.

In line with the Authority's existing borrowing strategy the revised estimate for new loans required to support the capital programme for 2021/22 was £11.805M (£3.429M supported).

It was likely that the sum required will now be internally borrowed during 2021/22, although with such a significant PWLB repayment profile and some large sums projected for HRA borrowing this position will need to be kept under review to help manage the Council's interest risk.

The Council invested with the Debt Management Deposit Facility, Local Authorities, Treasury Bills, Money Market Funds and Lloyds Instant Access Accounts in order to secure the best return.

The Authority was currently looking into the possibility of opening a notice account with Santander Bank PLC. This account benefited from a higher return provided the required period of notice was given prior to withdrawal.

The Authority proposed to extend the maturity period of loans to other Local Authorities from 365 days to 2 years. The maximum deposits per institution would be £5m and taking into account reserve projections it was proposed the maximum sum invested over 364 days will be restricted to £10m in total. In order to do this Cabinet and Full Council approval was requested in this report.

As the world emerged from the pandemic the report contained a review of the UK's and other leading nation's economies together with forecasts for interest rates.

The Authority must ensure that the Prudential Code was complied with, which had been developed and written by CIPFA as a professional code of practice. To demonstrate the Authority had fulfilled these objectives, the Code set out prudential indicators that should be implemented and the factors that must be taken into account. The Council fully complied with these prudential indicators during the first 6 months of 2021/22.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Treasury Management mid-year report for the period 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 be accepted.
- (2) T H A T the latest Treasury Management indicators be agreed.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the next Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- (4) T H A T the changes to the investment limits be noted.
- (5) T H A T the increase in the maximum maturity period for investments placed with other Local Authorities to 2 years with a maximum investment of £5M per institution and no more than £10M invested beyond 364 days be approved by Cabinet and Full Council.
- (6) T H A T the report be referred to Full Council for approval.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To present the Treasury Management mid-year report as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.
- (2) To present an update of the Treasury Management indicators which are included in the Treasury Management Strategy.
- (3) To present this report to the Corporate Performance & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- (4) To ensure members are aware of current Treasury Management practices.
- (5) To ensure members are aware of changes to the Treasury Management strategy.
- (6) To comply with the Treasury Management Strategy.

**C736 INITIAL REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

The purpose of the report was to obtain Cabinet's approval to commence consultation on the initial revenue budget proposals for 2022/23 and for the approval of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25.

The report also included the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 which linked the Council's strategic planning process with the budget process and ensured consistency between them. It was a mechanism that attempted to match future predicted resources and expenditure, identify potential shortfalls and provide the financial framework for the next 3 years.

COVID-19 continued to impact the Council both operationally and financially. Funding had been received from Welsh Government to help support not only the additional expenditure incurred due to the pandemic but also the loss of income; however, this support had started to reduce and was not expected to continue into 2022/23. There continues to be uncertainty and therefore, it is difficult to provide predications for the coming year and beyond.

The Council's provisional settlement had not yet been announced by Welsh Government and was expected this year on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with the final settlement due to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Even though this crucial information had not been received, the budget setting and consultation process had to commence in order to meet statutory deadlines. The Council is required, under statute, to fix the level of Council Tax for 2022/23 by 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and in order to do so, would have to agree a balanced revenue budget by that date.

Due to the considerable uncertainty and the financial pressures on government, the Plan has been based on four different scenarios with regards to funding from Welsh Government for the coming three financial years - a cash neutral settlement, a 1% reduction each year for the period of this Plan, a 1% increase each year and a scenario where the settlement for 2022/23 is at the same level as the 2021/22 settlement (4.42%).

Within the draft estimate the following had been assumed: no allowance has been made for price inflation due to this normally being taken up by departmental budgets; however, since this report was completed, inflation rates had increased, and this assumption would need to be reconsidered prior to finalisation of the budget.

The cost of staff pay awards had been fully funded; the pay awards for the current year were yet to be agreed, therefore assumptions had been included for these within the report. Also, National Insurance increases have been accounted for within the report. These costs would come to £4.497m. All non-pay cost pressures totalling £22.467m were fully funded within the report itself. There were no projected savings for the coming financial year.

The scenarios that have been modelled relating to Council Tax were at the latest reported CPI rate which was 3.2% each year (now 4.2%), a 3.9% increase each year in line with the increase in 2021/22 and increasing the level to the Welsh average which would be 7.05% in 2022/23 and an increase thereafter of 3.58% to maintain the average, assuming the same increase as the Welsh average for 2021/22.

The Leader stated the above assumptions would be reviewed and challenged as part of the final budget process.

It was agreed to change the proposed timetable and to have additional meetings around the budget and the late settlement announcement, with a report detailing updated initial budget proposals informed by the settlement taken to Cabinet on 14th February and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2022. The Final budget proposals would then be reported to Cabinet on 28th February with that Cabinet's final budget proposals considered by Council at a meeting to be held 7th March 2022 to enable the Council Tax to be set by 11th March 2022.

There were also substantial cost pressures, totalling £22.467m.

The Deputy Leader explained that it was good to have the challenges laid out, as detailed within the report, and this would require serious discussions with other Elected Members within Scrutiny and elsewhere on achieving a balanced budget. Inflation rises and increased fuel costs would affect Council services such as waste management vehicles and transporting children to school or to take people to day centres, coupled with a cut in Universal Credit for Vale residents and increased National Insurance. Cost pressures could impact some of the most vulnerable people, such as vulnerable children within education, but the Council's

vision of 'Strong Communities with a Bright Future' still needed to be delivered despite these pressures.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport added that the Council faced a number of known and as yet unknown challenges for the future around finances, which would not be easy to predict.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health looked forward to a constructive debate on this matter with Councillors and emphasised the need for continued Welsh Government funding for Social Care as its budget could not be in deficit but needed to be balanced, unlike the NHS, and in order to avoid placing a greater financial burden on local residents through Council Tax. Such costs pressures were also seen in other authorities.

The Leader had regular discussions with Welsh Government Ministers in relation to budgetary pressures, particular around social services, and other services such as waste management were only able to take a small amount from the Council's financial 'pot'. Various grants, etc. provided by Welsh Government were often too short term, with more long-term support required instead. The Council faced at present one of the worst case scenarios around cost pressures and this required serious consideration and discussion by Councillors within the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

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 initial revenue budget proposals for 2022/23 be approved for consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Committees and other consultees.
- (2) T H A T the recommendations of Scrutiny Committees be passed to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as the lead Scrutiny Committee, in order for their views to be forwarded to Cabinet.
- (3) T H A T the contents of the draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/22 to 2024/25 be considered and endorsed.
- (4) T H A T the Medium Term Financial Plan be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration with any comments made by that Committee being taken into account by Cabinet as part of the final budget proposals for 2022/23.
- (5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, together with the Managing Director and Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer to review and agree the timetable for the completion and approval of the final budgets for 2022/23.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In order to gain the views of Scrutiny Committees and other consultees.
- (2) In order that Cabinet be informed of the recommendations of Scrutiny Committees before making a final proposal on the budget.
- (3) To facilitate the integration of medium term financial planning into the corporate planning and budget process.
- (4) To consider comments of Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) To ensure final decisions regarding the budgets for 2022/23 are made in a timely manner.

**C737 INITIAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23 AND REVISED BUDGET 2021/22 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The purpose of the report was to obtain Cabinet's approval for the Housing Revenue Account amended budget for 2021/22 and the initial budget proposals for 2022/23, so that the proposals may be submitted to Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

The report provided an update on the revised Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22 and set out initial Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2022/23.

Each local housing authority was required to keep a Housing Revenue Account. Local authorities must set a budget for their Housing Revenue Account (HRA) on an annual basis. The budget must be set so that the sum held in the Housing Revenue Account reserve at year end is not in a deficit position. During the course of the year, local authorities must review their HRA expenditure and income and if, on the basis of the information available the account was heading for a deficit, they must take steps that are reasonably practical to prevent this deficit.

The budget for 2021/22 had changed to an outturn of an adverse variance of £11.085m; however, despite this, this amount in fact indicated that there was £11.085m more than the Council thought it would have within its budget and therefore reflected the way this variance was calculated.

At the end of 2021/22, the level of the Housing Account reserve was at a higher level than previously projected and therefore the proposed change to the operational budget would result in a reduction in the balance of this reserve to bring it in line with the level required in the Housing Business Plan.

Due to the above, it was proposed that the provision of bad debt had been reduced based on forecasting rent arrears up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, there had been a reduction in the capital financing costs, and the level of capital expenditure to be financed from revenue had been increased as monies from the HRA reserve were being used to fund some capital expenditure, thereby reducing the requirement to borrow in order to fund the HRA. These changes would leave the balance of the HRA at the end of 2021/22 financial year as £915k which was in line with the minimum amount required as per the Business Plan.

The initial budget for 2022/23 was outlined in the report, subject to guidance provided by Welsh Government with regard to setting rents in 2022/23.

A small surplus was estimated for 2022/23 of £8k.

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 amended Housing Revenue Account budget for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration to provide a context for Resolution (2).

(2) T H A T the initial Housing Revenue Account budget proposal for 2022/23 be approved for consultation and be referred to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(3) T H A T the recommendations of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee are passed to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as the lead Scrutiny Committee, in order for their views to be forwarded to Cabinet.

(4) T H A T the increase for rent and other services be subject to a future report to Cabinet as soon as the information is available from the Welsh Government (WG).

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To facilitate monitoring of the amended Housing Revenue Account Budget.

(2) In order to gain the views of Scrutiny Committee regarding the 2022/23 Housing Revenue Account Budget proposals.

(3) In order that Cabinet be informed of the comments of Scrutiny Committee before making a final proposal on the budget.

(4) In order to meet the statutory deadline to notify tenants of the new charges as required by Statute.

### **C738 INITIAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2022/23 TO 2026/27 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The purpose of the report was to obtain approval for the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2022/23 to 2026/27 so that they may be submitted to Scrutiny Committees for consultation.

The Provisional General Capital Funding for 2022/23 had not been announced by Welsh Government as yet but was expected on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with the final settlement to be announced on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The level of capital funding included in this report had therefore assumed the Council would receive the same amount of General Capital Funding in 2022/23 as in 2021/22 and will then remain constant for the remainder of the period of this programme.

Assumptions had also been made on the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA), which had not yet been announced by the Welsh Government for 2022/23, that the grant would continue at the same level as in the current year, which was £2.770m in 2021/22 and throughout the period of the Capital Programme.

As in previous years, all services had been asked to identify new schemes and to submit these new capital bids, which had been appropriately reviewed. The value of capital bids received totalled a gross amount of £16.583m in 2022/23 and £30.791m over the 5-year period. Due to the settlement for 2022/23 having not yet been confirmed, it was proposed that at this point, due to the uncertainty in the level of funding that will be provided, no schemes will be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme and further assessment will be carried out by the Budget Working Group once the level of funding was known and consultation has taken place.

The Leader also referred to the funding for the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme and the Housing Improvement Programme, also detailed within the report.

The Deputy emphasised the successes of the 21st Century Schools, such as 3 Secondary schools and 2 Primary schools being completed as part of the programme and the wider benefits to the local community i.e., the creation of 1,100 local jobs over the last two years and 50% of expenditure being procured within the local community. However, there were challenges ahead, such as the massive increase in the cost of building materials.

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 Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2022/23 to 2026/27 be approved for consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- (2) T H A T any recommendations of Scrutiny Committees are passed to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as the lead Scrutiny Committee in order for their views to be forwarded to Cabinet.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In order to gain the view of Scrutiny Committees.
- (2) In order that Cabinet be informed of the comments of Scrutiny Committees before making a final proposal on the 2022/23 Capital Programme.

**C739 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES)**

The purpose of the report was to confirm the re-adoption of the Council Tax Reduction National Scheme for 2022/2023 based on regulations and to reconfirm the Council's discretions.

The report set out the limited discretions available to the Council for consideration when re-adopting the Council Tax Reduction National Scheme for 2022/2023.

The report proposed that it be recommended to Full Council the re-adoption of the Council Tax Reduction National Scheme for 2022/2023 together with the limited discretions available to the Council.

Welsh local authorities had until 31st January each year to adopt a scheme exercising any of the discretions permitted under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. This required a decision by full Council. If the authorities failed to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by that date the default scheme would apply.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision.

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

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T it be recommended to Full Council that the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations SI 2013/3029 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes

(Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 SI 2014/66 be adopted.

(2) T H A T any amendments to Regulations made by the Welsh Government are reflected in the scheme.

(3) T H A T the national scheme be adopted with the following discretions: -

- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks.
- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

(4) 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 enable the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be approved by Council by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 and be in place for implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

#### Reason for decisions

(1-4) To enable the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be approved by Council by 31 January 2022 and be in place for implementation from 1 April 2022.

### **C740 COUNCIL TAX UNOCCUPIED DWELLINGS: 2022-2023(EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The report sought approval for a policy to be adopted for Council Tax on unoccupied dwellings for 2022-2023.

The report proposed that Cabinet reaffirm its previous decision not to grant any discount in council tax for long term empty properties and furnished second homes (for classes A, B and C) for the 2022-23 financial year.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED - T H A T the previous decision that no discount be allowed in 2022/23 in respect of unoccupied dwellings as defined in classes A, B and C to the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998, as amended, be re-affirmed.

#### Reason for decision

The Council is required to determine its policy on discounts in relation to unoccupied dwellings as defined in classes A, B and C to the Council Tax (Prescribed Class of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998 each year.

**C741 PRECEPT PAYMENT DATES 2022-2023 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

The report sought approval for the payment of precepts for 2022-2023 paid to the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and the Town and Community Councils within the Vale of Glamorgan area.

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 payment due to the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales be paid in 12 equal instalments on the last working day of each month.

(2) T H A T payment due to Town and Community Councils be paid in 3 equal instalments on the last working days of April, August and December 2022.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) The dates are determined to optimise the Council's cash flow in line with the regulations.

**C742 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The purpose of the report was to seek endorsement of the draft Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23 for the purpose of consultation.

The report set out how the draft Annual Delivery Plan had been developed, the proposed consultation and the timetable for the Plan.

The Annual Delivery Plan for 2022-23 was aligned to the Council's four Well-being Objectives. The Plan detailed the activities that would be undertaken in 2022-23 to deliver those objectives. The commitments within the Annual Delivery Plan would be reflected in Annual Service Plans together with service improvement targets which would detail how different Council services would contribute to the delivery of the four Well-being Objectives.

Publishing the Well-being Objectives at the start of the financial year enabled the meeting of statutory obligations under the performance duties of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA), both of which placed specific duties on the Council in relation to objective setting and reporting. Under the Well-being of

Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Council was required to publish its Well-being Objectives by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year and to keep those under review.

The Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives and associated commitments for 2022/2023 as outlined in the draft Annual Delivery Plan would be reflected in Service Plans for 2022 -2023. Work had commenced to develop the service plans which would be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committees in the New Year together with proposed service improvement targets for 2022-23.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the draft Annual Delivery Plan (Appendix A) be approved as the basis for consultation as described in this report.
- (2) T H A T the consultation approach and timetable as set out in the report be approved.
- (3) T H A T the approach taken this year to draft the Annual Delivery Plan and the relationship with Annual Service Plans be noted.
- (4) T H A T the report be referred to all Scrutiny Committees as part of the programme of consultation, requesting any comments to be shared with the Head of Policy and Business Transformation to inform revisions to the Annual Delivery Plan.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that consultation can be undertaken on the draft Annual Delivery Plan.
- (2) To ensure that effective consultation is undertaken within the necessary timeframes for publishing the Annual Delivery Plan.
- (3) To ensure that Cabinet are aware of how the Annual Delivery Plan has been developed and how it will provide the framework for Annual Service Plans.
- (4) To ensure that all Scrutiny Committees have the opportunity to consider the draft Annual Delivery Plan and provide feedback as part of the programme of consultation.

**C743 Q2 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2021/2022 (EL/PR)  
(SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

The purpose of the report was to update Members on the sickness absence statistics for the 6-month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The report set out the sickness absence figures for the 6-month period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as part of the agreed performance management arrangements. Absence levels have returned to levels similar to 2019/2020 (prior to Covid-19). The previous year (2020/2021) saw low levels of absence. Absence has increased in 2021/2022 in comparison to 2020/2021.

The absence rates set out in the report showed an increase from 3.40 days lost per FTE (April 2020 to September 2020) to 4.95 days lost per FTE (April 2021 to September 2021). The annual target figure (April 2021 to September 2021) was set as 4.15 days lost per FTE.

The Leader stated that the report was a clear, 'warts and all' update which showed that most areas (other than Learning and Skills) were up in terms of level of absences; however, this was expected due to, for example, the working from home measure in the previous year which may have masked levels of sickness due to people carrying on working at home even when sick. Short term and longer-term absences broke down 20% and 80% of overall sickness levels respectively.

The top reasons for lost workdays included Stress Non-Work related and Musculo-skeletal, which the Leader felt could be accounted for by the pressures placed on people due to the pandemic and lockdown and the work undertaken by certain front-line staff respectively.

There were in place measures to help deal with the above, such as the Employment Assistance Programme, employee training, health promotion, the new Occupational Health booking system, the extended wellbeing package and 40 trained mental health 'champions' for staff to turn to for help and guidance.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that staff within his portfolio and indeed within the wider Council, often had stressful, either mentally or physically, work with little time to recuperate and whilst juggling non-work pressures, which could impact their health. Working from home could also lead to less social interaction and isolation, thereby affecting staff wellbeing.

The Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services added that the measures to help combat sickness and absences would take time to take effect. Staff continued to produce and perform well despite the pressures on them due to the pandemic.

The Leader again stressed the pressures that staff faced with the pandemic directly or indirectly, and they needed to be looked after, which the above measures implemented by the Council sought to do.

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 six-month (April 2021 to September 2021) sickness absence figures provided in Appendix A be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with any comments referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To bring matters to the attention of Members in line with corporate objectives.
- (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.

#### **C744 DISPOSAL OF A SMALL PARCEL OF HOUSING OWNED LAND AT BARRY ROAD, BARRY (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The purpose of the report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, sought Cabinet approval to dispose of a small parcel of non-operational housing land suitable for use incidental to the enjoyment of the adjacent dwelling house only as identified at Appendix A to the report.

The Council owns various small parcels of land, which border or adjoin existing privately owned properties that are not suitable for development but are a continuing financial burden on the Council due to their ongoing maintenance and security costs.

The Council had received an enquiry to acquire one of these small areas of land which was held for the purposes of Part II of the Housing Act 1985 and was currently managed by, or under the control of, the Housing Department.

The Council could dispose of such land if it was no longer required for its operational purpose, it had been declared surplus to Council requirements and the disposal was in accordance with the General Consents for the Disposal of Houses and Land 1994 in that it would be used as additional garden space or a parking space by purchasers. Permission was therefore sought to dispose of this non-operational Housing owned land identified in Appendix A.

The land in question was part of an open space/amenity land. Therefore, permission was also sought to advertise the disposal of part of that land as a loss of open space.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED -

- (1) T H AT the parcel of Housing land shown at Appendix A be declared as surplus to Council requirements.
- (2) T H AT authority be given to the Head of Housing and Building Services to dispose of the land shown on the plan at Appendix A under the 32-34 of the Housing Act 1985 subject to compliance with the relevant legislative provisions, any statutory consents required and Resolutions (3) – (5) below.
- (3) T H AT authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to give notice and advertise the proposed intention to dispose of the land shown on the plan at Appendix A in accordance with s123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (4) T H A T, if any objections are received as a result of the advertisement process referred to in Resolution (3), these objections be reported back to Cabinet for consideration.
- (5) T H A T subject to no objections being received as referred to in Resolution (4) above, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services, and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, and Head of Finance / Operational Manager Financial Services to agree the appropriate terms and conditions for disposal of the parcel of land.
- (6) T H A T the Council relies on Consent E of the General Consents for the Disposal of Houses and Land 1994 made under the Housing Act 1985 for the disposal in order to comply with the relevant legislative provisions and any statutory consents required.
- (7) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to formalise any disposal subject to Resolutions (3) – (5) above.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To comply with the Council's Constitution.
- (2) To ensure compliance with the relevant legislative provisions, any statutory consents required and Resolutions (3) – (5) above.

- (3) To ensure compliance with Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the land being part of an open space.
- (4) In order that Cabinet may consider any objections received and to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (5) To allow for the land to be disposed on suitable terms and conditions.
- (6) To ensure compliance with the relevant legislative provisions and any statutory consents required.
- (7) To legally formalise the disposal of the land and to ensure compliance with statute and subject to Resolutions (3) – (5) above

**C745 BUTTRILLS ESTATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2021-22 (HSB) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) -**

The report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, sought to advise Cabinet of the tender process for a range of environmental improvement works on the Buttrills Estate, including improvements to the gardens of houses, bungalows and flats, encompassing the provision of both private and open communal garden areas, new drying spaces and external storage.

Cabinet was requested to accept the most advantageous tender bid and to authorise execution of the contract for delivery of the Buttrills Estate Environmental Improvement Scheme 2021-22, via a Part II report later on this agenda

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

- (1) To advise of the current position with this particular neighbourhood / environmental improvement contract.

**C746 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING MID TERM REPORT (SCH) (SCRUTINY – ALL) -**

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health presented the report, which provided a summary on the activity that had been undertaken in relation to



Corporate arrangements for Safeguarding across the Council and to provide assurance around safeguarding activity taking place across the Council.

There was a Corporate responsibility to ensure that there were effective arrangements in place for safeguarding children and adults who required specific Council services. The report provided a mid-year update on the effectiveness of those arrangements and the developments to date. The Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG) ensured that there was scrutiny and assurance of corporate safeguarding arrangements.

The CSG group had maintained regular meetings since April 2021 and representatives shared areas of priority and emerging themes.

Of note, was the considerable support that the Council gave to local schools around safeguarding and that all Council employees, volunteers including school governors, elected members, contractors and partners within the Vale were informed through induction and training of their responsibility to comply with the Safeguarding Policy.

It was also agreed that an extra recommendation be made to thank the Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG) and the associated officers for the work they continued to do in safeguarding children and adults.

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 has been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protection of children and adults be considered and noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet continues to receive six monthly reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and its effectiveness.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to all Scrutiny Committees for consideration.
- (4) T H A T the Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG) and the associated officers be thanked for the work they continue to do in safeguarding children and adults.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of recent developments in corporate arrangements for safeguarding.
- (2) To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of this key area of corporate working.

- (3) To ensure that there is a wide-reaching level of Member of oversight regarding this important area.
- (4) To acknowledge the work undertaken by the Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG) and the associated officers in safeguarding children and adults.

**C747 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODY (SCH) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

The purpose of the report, as presented by the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, was to seek Cabinet approval to grant delegated powers to the Operational Manager, Democratic Services in liaison with the Leader of the Council to identify and nominate three new Members to replace Councillors C.A. Cave, R. Nugent-Finn and L.O. Rowlands to represent the Council on Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council (CHC) until the Local Government Elections in May, 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health stated that such roles were also open to representatives from other forums or community groups, not just Vale of Glamorgan Councillors. With the increasing importance of CHCs it was important that potential members were able to have the required time in order to effectively carry out their roles, although it was noted that many people faced significant time barriers and anything that could be done to alleviate this should be considered.

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 delegated powers be granted to the Operational Manager, Democratic Services, in liaison with the Leader of the Council, to identify and nominate three new Members to represent the Council on the Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council.
- (2) T H A T, where legally possible, attendance at meetings of organisations to which a Member has been nominated or appointed by the Council be classed as an approved duty for which travelling and subsistence allowances are payable, in accordance with the Council's scheme.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To ensure continuity of representation by the Council on the Cardiff and Vale CHC.

**C748 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.

**C749 BUTTRILLS ESTATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2021-22 (HSB) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 13) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) -**

The report brought to the attention of Cabinet the proposed award of the Buttrills Estate Environmental Improvement Scheme 2021-22.

The report sought delegated authority for the Director of Environment and Housing Services and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, to accept the most advantageous tender bid and execute the JCT Intermediate Work contract 2016 with Gerald Davies Ltd

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the award of the contract to Gerald Davies Ltd be approved.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to prepare and execute a JCT intermediate 2016 contract with Gerald Davies Ltd

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, which require contracts with a value in excess of £300k to be agreed by Cabinet.
- (2) To enable the contract documentation to be finalised with the successful contractor.