

CABINET

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 20th December, 2021.

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

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

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

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

C764 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”.

The Leader and Cabinet Members wished the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan a happy Christmas, a peaceful and safe new year and passed on their thanks to all Vale of Glamorgan Council staff for the outstanding work carried out this year and throughout the pandemic.

C765 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor B.T. Gray.

C766 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

C767 PROJECT ZERO – DELIVERING THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE PLAN (REF) –

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 16th November, 2021 was presented.

The Leader in discussing the reference referred to the progress being made to develop the Council’s approach to delivering the Project Zero, Climate Change Challenge Plan, including governance and delivery.

The Committee had recommended that Cabinet and the relevant Scrutiny Committees receive further reports on Project Zero on a four monthly (triannual) basis.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the recommendation of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee that further reports on Project Zero be provided to Cabinet on a triannual basis, with the reports to then be referred to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for their consideration be noted and agreed.

Reason for decisions

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

C768 DRAFT WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION (REF) –

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

The Leader in discussing the reference referred to the presentation given by the Head of Policy and Business Transformation, advising of the Welsh Language Standards (Standards 145 and 146) and the points that Local Authorities were required to address. He was pleased to note that the Vale of Glamorgan had maintained the numbers of Welsh speakers over the years and that pupil figures had increased by 11%.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the recommendations of the Committee and progress made to date be noted and further updates be received going forward.

Reason for decision

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

C769 GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 (REF) –

The reference from Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee on 30th November, 2021 was presented.

The Leader in discussing the reference referred to the discussion concerning how willing the general public were to support their neighbours and communities, noting the work of the Vale Heroes group and the outstanding work they had undertaken as a result of the pandemic.

He also referred to the awards evening that had previously been hosted by Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) and the Council which recognised the work of volunteers in the Vale of Glamorgan and whether it would be possible as part of staff awards to also recognise those who did voluntary work in the hope this would encourage more people to take up volunteering opportunities. This was subsequently added as a recommendation to Cabinet, to establish a volunteers' awards evening in order to formally acknowledge and highlight voluntary work in the Vale of Glamorgan be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration. The Leader said that was something that could be considered in future once the effects of the pandemic subsided in 2022.

The Deputy Leader also referred to the many informal groups that had come into being as a result of the pandemic, e.g., Helping Hands in Penarth. Those informal groups had formed relationships which had remained present in communities and provided greater community cohesion. Some groups had explored having a more formal structure and had difficulties and felt that could possibly be explored by GVS going forward.

It was subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the comments made at the meeting be noted and the possibility of an awards ceremony be discussed with GVS to take place in 2022, or whenever possible considering the effects of the pandemic.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet would work with GVS to explore why groups had experienced difficulties in formalising arrangements.
- (3) T H A T all the volunteers who continued to help others throughout the County and beyond during the pandemic, be that formally or informally, for supporting others where they could, be thanked and congratulated.

Reason for decisions

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

C770 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 –

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 13th September, 2021 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

Councillor McCaffer referred to the detail concerning Foster Wales and Children Looked After being considered by the Panel at the meeting. The Foster Wales matter was important as there had been a shortage of available foster carers and having a central point of contact was vital, with more being recruited as a result of the campaign.

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 13th September, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

C771 DRAFT RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES (GENERAL) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2022 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The report sought Cabinet approval for the submission of the Council's response to the above Welsh Government consultation.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The Act provided for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations.

Welsh Government had been consulting on the introduction of regulations and guidance to accompany the introduction of CJCs over the last year.

The report sought endorsement from Cabinet of the Council's response (Appendix A) to the latest consultation regarding the Regulations which supported the setting up of the four CJCs.

A further consultation in the Spring of 2022 would cover any remaining provisions which a CJC might need but which were unlikely to be needed at the point at which they begin to deliver their functions. Further reports to Cabinet would follow in due course.

The Leader referred to Question 9 of Appendix A, endorsed the answer concerning VAT or Company Taxation and hoped that Welsh Government would address that matter urgently. He also referred to Scrutiny of the CJCs, stressed the importance of scrutiny and agreed with the response that funding should be provided by the CJC to provide the scrutiny support for the CJC. It was suggested that there could be a standing item on the agenda on Scrutiny Committee agendas so as to provide Members with updates.

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 and the draft response to the consultation for submission to Welsh Government be agreed and endorsed.

(2) T H A T the urgency procedure set out in section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised in respect of Resolution (1).

Reason for decision

(1) To enable the Council to respond to the consultation on Corporate Joint Committees.

(2) To enable the response to be submitted by 22nd December, 2021.

C772 NATURE EMERGENCY – DELIVERING THE COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN (DL/ER) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGNERATION) –

The report detailed the proposed governance arrangements for dealing with the declared Nature Emergency.

As part of those governance arrangements a Local Nature Action team had been established to take forward the actions necessary to address the emergency and feed into the Climate Change Challenge Plan and an initial project plan had been developed.

The team of senior officers had met and considered the challenges and associated steps necessary and would report back to the Project Zero Board, chaired by the Managing Director.

It was agreed that the Biodiversity Forward Plan agreed by Cabinet in September 2019, along with the related Nature Recovery Action Plan, would form the basis of the Council's response to the emergency and would support and enhance the work of the Local Nature Partnership in working with the local community.

The Deputy Leader said that the Local Nature Action team would feed into the Project Zero Board as people had commented that they wanted to see nature more explicitly discussed within Project Zero.

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 governance arrangements to deal with the Nature Emergency be approved.

(2) T H A T the use of the Biodiversity Forward Plan as the basis of the Council's response to the Nature Emergency be endorsed.

(3) T H A T the way forward for responding to the Nature Emergency as proposed by the Project Board as described in the body of the report be endorsed.

- (4) T H A T the Project Board would ensure alignment with activities undertaken as part of the response to Project Zero be noted.
- (5) T H A T the report be referred to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.
- (6) T H A T the report be distributed to all elected Members and all Clerks of Town and Community Councils for their information.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable Cabinet to consider and approve the governance arrangements.
- (2) To enable Cabinet to consider and approve the Biodiversity Forward Plan as forming the basis of the response.
- (3) To enable Cabinet to consider and approve the way forward proposed by the Board.
- (4) To confirm and ensure that the work on climate change and the nature emergency will be aligned.
- (5) To enable the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to consider how Project Zero was being taken forward.
- (6) To update all elected Members and Town and Community Councils on the arrangements to deliver the response to the declared Nature Emergency.

C773 DRAFT TENANT AND LEASEHOLDER PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2021 – 2026 (HBS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The New Tenant and Leaseholder Strategy 2021- 2024 set out the Council's Vision for increasing Tenant and Leaseholder Participation.

The strategy focused on three key themes and one overarching theme which were:

- to increase Involvement;
- to Invest in staff and financial resources to aid participation;
- to support Tenants and Leaseholders to enable them to Influence decisions; and
- to ensure Tenants and Leaseholders views were listened to, valued and acted on.

The delivery of the comprehensive Tenant and Leaseholder Strategy Action Plan would be monitored by a crossed departmental working and external Tenant led working group.

The Cabinet Member in referring to the report said that the Strategy, the Equality Impact Assessment and the views of the Scrutiny Committee and wider public consultation would be considered by Cabinet in the new year prior to the final Strategy being agreed.

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 details of the New Tenant and Leaseholders Participation Strategy 2021 – 2024 (Appendix A to the report) and the Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix B to the report) for further consultation be noted and approved.
- (2) T H A T in pursuance of Resolution (1), the Strategy and the Equality Impact Assessment be referred to Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration, as part of the consultation process.
- (3) T H A T subject to Resolutions (1) and (2), the Strategy, the Equality Impact Assessment and the views of the Scrutiny Committee and wider public consultation be considered by Cabinet prior to the final Strategy being agreed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To note and approve the proposed strategic direction of the new Tenant and Leaseholder Participation 2021 - 2024 strategy which was aligned to the Corporate Plan, the Council Wellbeing Plan and the Vale Homes Community Investment and Environmental Strategy.
- (2) To ensure appropriate scrutiny of these important documents, as part of wider consultation.
- (3) To allow Cabinet to make a fully informed decision on the final Strategy, following further consultation.

C774 PROGRESS UPDATE REGARDING HYBRID SOLUTION FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT (LRPS) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The report sought to provide Cabinet with an update on progress with regard to:-

- the provision and training for Members of a hybrid solution for Council meetings having regard to the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Welsh Government (WG) Interim Statutory Guidance on Multi-Location meetings published in August 2021;

- various aspects relating to other provisions as required under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 including the work being undertaken by the All Wales Monitoring Officers' Group in respect of a Model Constitution and the work being undertaken internally by Council Officers relating to a Public Participation Strategy; and
- work undertaken to date with regard to public engagement in the democratic process.

The Leader noted that the report owner was the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services which had not been clearly stated in the report.

Councillor McCaffer hoped that the legislation would encourage more interest in being a Councillor and stand for election as hybrid meetings could potentially remove some barriers that may have existed for some people to be able to attend relevant Council meetings. The Leader agreed that added flexibility in how people could attend meetings was important and a positive outcome from the pandemic.

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, having particular regard to paragraphs 2.12 to 2.16 of the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Council's Remote Attendance at Meetings Procedure be reviewed in light of Welsh Government statutory interim guidance on multi-location meetings (published August 2021) and reported back to Cabinet for consideration prior to implementation in May 2022.
- (3) T H A T when further specific guidance was received having regard to Welsh Government's social distancing measures, and the implementation of Section 46 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 in May 2022, further consideration would be given to which Council meetings would be broadcast, and held on a physical basis, remote means or both and a further report ~~would~~ be submitted to Cabinet on the matter.
- (4) T H A T in light of the Council's proposals relating to Project Zero and Climate Emergency declaration, all agendas and reports be provided by electronic means only from 1st January, 2022 unless specific requests were made to the Head of Democratic Services for hard copies.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report.
- (2) Having regard to the Welsh Government interim guidance on multi-location meetings (published August 2021).

(3) Having regard to Section 46 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to be implemented in May 2022, and Welsh Government social distancing measures.

(4) Having regard to the Council's proposals in respect of Project Zero and its Climate Emergency declaration.

C775 RESHAPING OF THE ARTS SERVICE UPDATE AND ARTS CENTRAL GALLERY REVIEW (LAC) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The report provided an update and options report regarding the Arts Service and potential future use of Arts Central Gallery.

A review of Art Central Gallery had been conducted. The Gallery review had identified six potential options, with one preferred option for the future use of the space, with an aim of the space being sustainable and cost neutral to the Council:

- Option 1. Maintain the status quo.
- Option 2. Overhaul fees and introduction of paid art events and workshops.
- Option 3 (preferred Option). Establishment of a café bar and modernisation of Art Central Gallery.
- Option 4. Pass the running of the Gallery over to a third-party group, Trust or arts organisation.
- Option 5. Close the Gallery and find an alternative use for the space.
- Option 6. Close the Gallery and secure a commercial tenant.

The Cabinet Member said that the world had changed considerably since the consultation started and the view of the arts and the value it holds held in people's lives had changed also. The Pavilion had made a huge and beneficial difference to the residents of Penarth and visitors to the area.

Correspondence and comments had been received from Councillor Charles, who was broadly in agreement with the recommendations, and Councillor Dr. Johnson who had raised some points concerning Option 3 in relation to the impact on the local area. Councillor McCaffer said she looked forward to having a discussion on the issues raised at Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee in the new year. Comments had also been received from the Chair of Arts Central Friends who was also supportive of the report and recommendations.

The Leader agreed that all comments received would be considered at Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee. Councillor McCaffer encouraged anyone with an interest to be involved in the discussion.

The Deputy Leader said she had been fortunate to go to the Pavilion open day and see the area bustling with people interested in the cinema, adult community learning, the library, weddings, and concerts. There was a real challenge to maintain, promote and run sustainably any provision that was outside the Council's statutory remit, but there was also potentially a step change in the

economic recovery of Holton Road and the surrounding area. Councillor Burnett also looked forward to the forthcoming discussion at Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report in providing an update and options on the reshaping of the Arts Service and use of Arts Central Gallery following public consultation be noted.
- (2) T H A T the options outlined in the report as a basis for referral to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration be approved.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Learning and Skills, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, and Managing Director, to:
 - Continue to engage with stakeholders and interested parties in relation to progressing the preferred option;
 - Report back to Cabinet any material changes to the proposals resulting from the response from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- (4) T H A T Cabinet receive a report detailing the progress made after the first year of implementation.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide Cabinet with an update on the development of proposals and options for the Arts Service.
- (2) To allow consideration by Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) To allow for ongoing engagement as work on the preferred option progresses.
- (4) To enable Cabinet to consider the progress being made.

C776 ACTIVE TRAVEL – RESULTS OF CONSULTATION FOR THE ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK MAP UPDATE 2021 (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 placed duties on Local Authorities in Wales to map, plan for, improve and promote opportunities for active travel. Initial Active

Travel Network Maps (ATNMs) were approved by Welsh Government (WG) in November 2017 and updated ATNMs must be submitted to WG every three years.

Sustrans Cymru Ltd had assisted Council officers with the undertaking of the Active Travel route auditing and production of future routes.

A 12 week public consultation on the ATNM took place between 2nd August and 24th October, 2021. 143 responses had been received.

Three amendments to the ATNM previously seen by Cabinet were being recommended. The addition of a route to Llantwit Major beach, the realignment of the St. Athan to Rhoose route and an addition of the shared use facility in Dingle Park, Penarth.

The report sought approval to submit the final ATNMs to WG.

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 responses to the consultation as attached at Appendices A and B to the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Active Travel Network Maps (ATNMs) as attached at Appendix E to the report be approved.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration in January 2022.
- (4) T H A T any comments made by Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be reported back to Cabinet for consideration in late January 2022 before the submission of the final Active Travel Network Maps for the Vale of Glamorgan to Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allow Cabinet to consider the responses received as part of the consultation process.
- (2) To allow Cabinet to approve the final Active Travel Network Maps.
- (3) To ensure the views of the relevant Scrutiny Committee are considered.
- (4) To allow the Council to submit its final Active Travel Network Map to Welsh Government.