

CABINET

Minutes of a Cabinet meeting held on 10th January, 2022.

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

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

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

C777 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”.

C778 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to it being noted that there were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

C779 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Name of Councillor

Councillor N. Moore (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources)

Councillors K.F. McCaffer (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture)

Nature of Interest

The interest related to Agenda Item 5 – ‘Capital Monitoring for the Period 1st April to 30th November 2021’.

Councillor Moore declared an interest as his grandchildren attend All Saints Primary School, but had dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak, vote and take part in any discussions in relation to the matter.

The interest related to Agenda Item 10 – ‘Update on the Consultation on the Proposal to Amalgamate Bute Cottage Nursery with Evenlode Primary School and Cogan Nursery with Cogan Primary School.’

Councillor McCaffer declared an interest as an LEA Governor but had dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak, vote and take part in any discussions in relation to the matter.

B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health)

The interest related to Agenda Item 10 – ‘Update on the Consultation on the Proposal to Amalgamate Bute Cottage Nursery with Evenlode Primary School and Cogan Nursery with Cogan Primary School.’

Councillor Gray declared an interest as an LEA Governor had dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak, vote and take part in any discussions in relation to the matter.

C780 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 1ST DECEMBER, 2021 –

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 1st December, 2021 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

The Deputy Leader had attended the meeting and referred to a comment made by the representative from the Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association concerning cycling. Her response concerned the temporary withdrawal of Nextbikes within Cardiff and was now able to advise that Nextbikes would be returning in the middle of January 2022.

Cabinet, having considered the reference

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 1st December, 2021 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

C781 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2021 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

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

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

The Leader, in referring to the report, said that some schemes had experienced increased costs due to supply and demand issues and new grants had been received from Welsh Government to fund a number of initiatives. Some schemes would not be able to commence within this current year and some start dates had been delayed. This had had a particular effect on the Housing Improvement

Programme with increased costs of materials. The impact of the pandemic and Brexit on the Programme would continue to be monitored.

The Deputy Leader spoke about the Penarth Food Pod scheme which had been established with a WLGA food poverty grant in August 2021. The pod had been widely welcomed and was providing much needed community support as well as helping to avoid food waste.

She also confirmed that the play area in Stanwell referred to on Page 3 of the report referred to the only play area in Stanwell, adjacent to St. David's Crescent and often called St. Cyres park.

Paragraph 2.12 of the report referred to the Bocs Bwyd Project and the success of the scheme at Oakfield Primary. Councillor Burnett celebrated the fantastic achievement to support the establishment of the 25 additional Big Bocs Bwyd projects during phase 2 only, in schools across 9 South Wales Local Authorities. She passed on her thanks to all concerned for the work done to date and for supporting communities in the Vale and across South East Wales. Councillor Wilkinson added her thanks to Oakfield Primary School, as the project had made a great difference in the Gibbonsdown ward and it was being well used.

Paragraph 2.6 of the report referred to an update concerning Barry Waterfront School where there needed to be a change because of rising costs to the capital amount and slight alteration to the S106 agreement which had been circulated and was awaiting sign-off by the Consortium. Councillor Burnett added that piling was also due to start on the 24th January, 2022 but an update was due later in the day.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and the reference 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 Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- (3) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority be noted in relation to the following:
 - Barry Wayfinding Project - Repurpose the £133k unallocated Tackling Poverty - Holton Road Grant Programme budget to be used for the Barry Wayfinding Project.
- (4) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers be noted in relation to the following:
 - Cogan Primary Replacement Shelters and Viking Boat - Include this new scheme totalling £13,138 in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a revenue contribution from the school.

- Band B Barry Waterfront - Carry forward £280k of the 'Band B Contingency' budget and allocate it to the Barry Waterfront scheme in the 2022/23 capital programme and increase the 'S106 Developer Contribution' by £280k in the 2022/23 capital programme, which would be funded directly by the Consortium, as a requirement of their obligation within the S106 agreement.
- All Saints Church in Wales Primary School Fence - Include a new scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme with a budget of £18,880, to be funded (85%) £16,048 grant from the Diocese and (15%) £2,832 virement from the All Schools Security scheme budget.
- Gibbonsdown, Skomer Road Flying Start Extension - Increase this scheme budget by £12k in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- Dinas Powys Flood Resilience Project - Include a new scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme with a budget of £140,500 to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- Neighbourhood Services Highway Improvements - Increase the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £340k to be funded by a revenue contribution from the Policy budget.
- All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2021/22 - Include this scheme within the 2021/22 Capital Programme in the sum of £223,000 to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- WLGA Food Poverty Grant - Vire £22k from the WLGA Food Poverty Grant scheme to the Penarth Food Pod scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Central Promenade Café, Barry Island - Include this new scheme with a budget of £50k in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by the Miscellaneous Buildings reserve.

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

- Old Hall Cowbridge, Renewal of roof coverings - Carry forward £250k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Llansannor Extension - Carry forward £157k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- St Brides - Carry forward £177k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Jenner Park Primary Boiler Renewal - Vire this budget to the Education Asset Renewal Contingency scheme budget in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Big Bocs Bwyd Project Phase 2 - Include this scheme with a budget of £587,500 in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government
- Oakfield Primary School Log Cabin Scheme - Include this new scheme with a budget of £10,580 in the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a revenue contribution from the school.
- Dinas Powys Primary – Tarmac Playground - Increase this scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £11k to be funded a revenue contribution from the school.
- Albert Primary new classroom block - Vire £7k from the Education Asset Renewal Contingency budget to this scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.

- Ysgol Y Draig Outdoor Classroom Facility - Increase this scheme budget by £4k to be funded from the WLGA Education grant.
- Resource Recovery Facility/ Waste Transfer Station - Carry forward £3.615m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Circular Economy Sorting Equipment and Baler - Carry forward £370k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- New Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) - Carry forward £1.605m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Rhoose Sustainable Transport - Carry forward £409k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Eastern Shelter Resurface Roof - Carry forward £73k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Romilly Tennis Courts - Carry forward £119k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Play Area in Stanwell - Carry forward £110k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Gladstone Park Interpretation Scheme - Carry forward the £23k budget for this scheme into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Barry Leisure Centre Hall Floor - Vire £14k to the Leisure Centre Works scheme in the 2021/22 Capital Programme.
- Road Safety Audits Stage 4 & 5 for Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys and Floodgate Roundabout - Include this scheme with a budget of £3k into the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.
- HRA New Build - Carry forward £663k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- HRA Internal Works - Carry forward £655k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- HRA External Works - Carry forward £1.350m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Individual Schemes - Carry forward £2.793m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Common Parts - Carry forward £1.850m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Environmental Works - Carry forward £1.350m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Energy Efficiency - Carry forward £3m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Five Mile Lane - Carry forward £1m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Belle Vue Pavilion in Penarth - Carry forward £1.025m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Windmill Lane Play Area - Carry forward £57k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Civic Offices Electric Scheme - Carry forward £63k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme and vire to the All Services Asset Renewal scheme.
- Alps Depot Toilet Refurbishment - Carry forward £189k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- BSC2 - Carry forward £589k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Penarth Renewal Area - Carry forward £5k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Disabled Facilities Grant - Carry forward £396k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.

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.

C782 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2021 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The revenue position for 2021/22 would continue to be challenging for the Council both operationally and financially due to the ongoing implications of the 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 31st March, 2022.

An efficiency target of £500k had been set for the year and services were working towards achieving their targets, however it was currently anticipated that savings may not be fully achieved in the current year. There still remained some issues relating to unachieved savings targets from previous years.

Adverse variances were being projected for some services this year and the use of reserves would be required to resolve those issues in the short term.

The Leader, in referring to the report, said nearly £9m of Hardship funding had been received but there remained a hold on some expenditure for matters such as Free School Meals and Social Care costs as the Council was still awaiting some further information. Welsh Government had confirmed there would be grant funding to support the Council for the loss of income throughout the financial year. The Council had also processed the Welsh Government grant for a £735 payment for Social Care workers.

Councillor King, in referring to the report, said that the use of reserves to offset the overspend from Neighbourhood Services and Transport had been reported previously and recognised as linked to Waste Management and recycling. While the level of recycling placed the Vale of Glamorgan Council as second best in the UK, it was still a costly operation that had not been made easier by the pandemic. He paid tribute to all the staff concerned in providing services and working during challenging times, particularly the loaders and drivers of the vehicles.

The latest added challenge as a result of the Omicron variant infection rate and anticipated rate of sickness absence and availability of drivers. The Council had

diverted any spare capacity to maintain the priority collections of food waste, black bags and recyclables and delayed the collection of garden waste. The anticipated peak of sickness absence now coincided with the need to prioritise road gritting. As such, the Council may not be able to offer the same service as previous years regarding the collection and recycling of Christmas trees. Details of the amended Christmas tree collection service would be released through the usual media channels later in the week, using 5 vehicles and 15 staff over a two-week period but with no guarantee that those staff would be available. As such, alternative Christmas tree recycling options where trees could be taken to a specific site across the Vale on set days in addition to existing options for ring and request services and Household Waste Recycling Centres. If residents were unable to access any of those recycling options, the trees could be collected as part of the normal black bag waste arrangements later this month with the trees going to the energy from waste facility in Cardiff. The Leader added that trees could also be cut up and placed in green bags for collection as well as taken to recycling centres without the need for an appointment.

Councillor Gray said that Officers, staff and carers had also worked throughout the Christmas period and pandemic and in terms of revenue monitoring paid tribute to those who had processed the Covid recovery claims. There had been interesting and robust conversations about finances at various Scrutiny Committees where there had been cross-party acknowledgment of the pressures being faced, as well as some of those pressures being moved forward to the next year also. He was pleased that the use of reserves to support services was possible but acknowledged that a number of people were continuing to wait for care. Options were being put together to help people to become carers as part of a fast track to care programme so as to have enough carers to provide the sort of support that the most vulnerable people in society require.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and the reference 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 report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform Cabinet of the projected revenue outturn for 2021/22.
- (2) To advise Members of financial position.

C783 CABINET QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAMMES – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY TO MARCH 2022 (EL/PR) –

The report sought Cabinet approval and any comments in respect of the progress update for the quarter October to December 2021 and approval of the updated Cabinet Quarterly Forward Work Programme from January to March 2022 .

The Leader, in referring to the report, was pleased to see that all matters listed in Appendix 1 up until December 2021 had been dealt with, with one exception due to a change in the Welsh Government report referral date to a future date.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the updates to the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme for October to December 2021 (Appendix 1) be agreed.

(2) T H A T the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme January to March 2022 attached at Appendix 2 be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To monitor progress.

(2) To approve the Work Programme for January to March 2022.

C784 AUDIT OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S ASSESSMENT OF 2020-21 PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS AGAINST EXTERNAL REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The report presented the certificate of compliance for the audit of the Council's assessment of 2020-21 performance (Appendix A) and a progress update (as at December 2021) against existing regulatory proposals (Appendix B).

In issuing the appended compliance certificate, the Auditor General Wales had determined that the Council had discharged its duties in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and statutory guidance.

This was the final compliance certificate to be issued under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, now superseded by the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021.

Despite the significant challenges of the past year, positive progress had been made in responding to regulatory improvement areas, with 11 of the 46 actions on the tracker completed as at December 2021. 30 actions on the tracker related to local regulatory proposals of which 6 had been completed and work was progressing on the remaining 24 actions. Of the 16 actions relating to national regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals, 5 had been completed with work progressing on the remaining actions. Work would progress over a longer period to fully address some regulatory proposals due to the resources required, nature and complexity of the service areas involved.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's performance assessment certificate for 2020-21 be noted and the certificate referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee (20th January, 2022) and Governance and Audit Committee (1st March, 2022) for their oversight.

(2) T H A T the progress made to date in addressing recommendations and improvement proposals made by the Council's external regulators be noted and the report be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee (1st March, 2022) for their consideration.

(3) T H A T following consideration of progress against recommendations and improvement proposals made by the Council's external regulators, the Governance and Audit Committee be asked to refer any recommendations / comments of the Committee to Cabinet for final review.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide for scrutiny of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's performance assessment certificate for 2020-21 issued by the Auditor General Wales under sections 17 and 19 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

(2) To ensure the Council implements its regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals and responds appropriately to the recommendations and proposals for improvement identified through Audit Wales' programme of local and national Local Government Studies.

(3) To ensure that the Governance and Audit Committee maintains oversight of the Council's progress with the regulatory work programme in line with its terms of reference.

**C785 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 2 UPDATE (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader asked that Item 11 (i) on the agenda be brought forward to be considered during this item as they related to the same matter, which was agreed.

The report provided Members with a comprehensive overview of the Corporate Risk Register for Quarter 2 (April 2021-September 2021). A risk analysis was incorporated within the Corporate Risk Summary Report (Annex A).

This enabled officers and Members to identify and assess trends and the cross-cutting nature of risks with the ability to drill down to the detail of risks as and when required.

The Leader, in referring to the report, said that there were now 18 corporate risks on the Register as two additional risks had emerged that related to Social Services with regards to market fragility and demand management and service capacity.

In referring to the reference from the Governance and Audit Committee of 13th December, 2021, the Leader said that the Director had discussed market fragility within the Care Home and Care Providers sectors, as well as the ability to secure insurance cover, which was becoming more difficult for Care Providers.

The Director had discussed demand management and service capacity and meeting the needs of an ageing population where there was an increasing number of older people requiring support alongside the number of complex care packages required for children.

The Governance and Audit Committee subsequently resolved to note the Quarter 2 position of corporate risks for the period April 2021-September 2021 as outlined in Annex A, requested Cabinet endorse the inclusion of two new Corporate risks on the Register (Market Fragility Risk and Demand Management and Service Capacity Risk) as outlined in Annex A and that the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee be considered by Cabinet at the meeting when Cabinet would consider a report on the Corporate Risk Register for Quarter 2. They also requested further information regarding the insurance issues which Cabinet asked to receive also.

Councillor Gray reminded Cabinet that providers were operating within the Covid environment which added increased risk. Throughout the Christmas and New Year period he had been in regular contact with Senior Social Services Officers who continued to work to facilitate as much care as possible during difficult circumstances. He supported the inclusion of the two additional risks to the Register and noted that within the Council's own provision they were able to move quickly to provide support. Councillor Gray also referred to the challenge faced by all Local Authorities in terms of recruitment within Children and Young People Services which had also been discussed at Corporate Parenting Panel and passed on thanks to all who had kept the service running across the Christmas and New Year period.

The Deputy Leader referred to paragraph 2.6 of the report which discussed that a number of issues remained largely outside the Council's control, highlighting how difficult it was to deliver public services at a time when they were needed most during the pandemic. Staff were prepared to be repurposed to where they were most needed to fill gaps to ensure that service provision, e.g. administering business grants to support businesses.

The Leader added that in order to deliver social care there was reliance on other sectors to work in partnership to continue to provide care and thanked all involved for working collaboratively.

Councillor Gray reminded Cabinet Members that the majority of people waiting for care were not within a hospital setting and paid tribute to all those families providing care and recognised the care provided by unpaid carers across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Leader agreed and said it was important to acknowledge the role played by private carers as the ageing population continued to increase in the Vale, not necessarily in a Care Home.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Quarter 2 position of corporate risks (April 2021-September 2021) and the identification of two new Corporate risks for inclusion in the Register (Market Fragility risk and Demand Management & Service Capacity risk) as outlined in Annex A be noted.

(2) T H A T the Corporate Risk Register for Quarter 2 and the associated Corporate Risk Summary Report including the endorsement of the two new corporate risks be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure Cabinet identify the quarter 2 position of the corporate risks across the Council as well as emerging risks for inclusion on the Register as outlined in Annex A.

(2) To ensure effective oversight of the corporate risks and enable Cabinet to examine key emerging issues and actions to be taken as outlined in Annex A.

C786 UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE BUTE COTTAGE NURSERY WITH EVENLODE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND COGAN NURSERY WITH COGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (DL/ER) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposals to amalgamate nursery provision in Penarth by amalgamating Bute Cottage Nursery School and Evenlode Primary School and amalgamating Cogan Nursery School and Cogan Primary School.

During the consultation period, the Council received 238 responses by the closing date of 5th November 2021. Consultees were asked to indicate whether they 'support', 'do not support' or had 'no opinion' on the three individual elements of the proposals.

Proposals 1 - Amalgamating Bute Cottage Nursery School and Evenlode Primary School: Out of 238 individual responses, 48 consultees were in support of the proposals, 169 were opposed and 21 offered no opinion either way.

Proposals 2 - Amalgamating Cogan Nursery School and Cogan Primary School: Out of 238 individual responses, 47 consultees were in support of the proposals, 73 were opposed and 118 offered no opinion either way.

A summary of key themes and issues raised during the consultation exercise was included in the consultation report attached at Appendix B and summarised in the body of the report.

Following the completion of the consultation period, a decision was now required on whether to progress the proposals further with the publication of the proposals for the regulated alteration in the form of a statutory notice.

The Deputy Leader referred to the report in some detail and advised that she had read every single submission response in detail. She had attended the remote meetings held with the staff and governors at both Bute Cottage and Cogan Nursery Schools and visited Bute Cottage Nursery on invitation.

Paragraph 2.10 of the report stated that the governors and staff that would be directly affected by the proposals at all facilities were in favour. There were a number of themes identified within the responses that were summarised in Paragraph 2.11 of the report and the Deputy Leader referred to each of the 15 Themes in turn, additionally noting:-

Theme 1 – Councillor Burnett had spoken to a number of people and advised them that if there were issues that people felt should be changed or continued, parents and governors were always able to make opinions known and voices heard within the relevant school. She re-stated that staff and pupils would transfer to the new school as an entity and that there are no plans to move from existing sites as part of the proposals. Children and staff would not move from their existing sites.

Theme 3 – Councillor Burnett spoke regarding continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three and the benefits of not being in one provision for a year to eighteen months and then move to a new provision, which within Foundation Phase was important for consistency in policies, strategies and pedagogy. There would be a saving of £140k but that was in the context of the Education budget as a whole which was largely delegated to schools to manage. The money was determined on a per capita basis and therefore none of the schools would lose any of their funding.

Theme 5 – As there had been some misinformation on this issue as part of the consultation process Councillor Burnett confirmed there would be no increase in the overall places available as a result of these proposals and therefore Nursery pupils would not be overwhelmed within a bigger setting. Both Nursery units would remain on their same sites and therefore there would be no difference in experience for the children, but there would be improved transition to the Primary Phase.

The report had been taken to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the 14th October, 2021 where there had been a full discussion, but unfortunately no public speakers had registered to speak. Councillor Burnett had attended and was interested in the discussion concerning previous experiences of school amalgamations; of particular interest was the discussion concerning Nurseries and Primary Schools having separate literacy schemes or other forms of learning and the benefits of a coordinated approach to learning across the stages.

Councillor Burnett referred to page 3 of Appendix B which referred to a petition on behalf of Bute Cottage Nursery School stakeholders which contained over a thousand signatures. However, that petition included information that the Nursery would be relocated to the Evenlode Primary School site but was later changed to say it was not part of the proposal but would be a priority were the proposals to be approved. Councillor Burnett reaffirmed that the proposals did not concern relocating either Nursery and therefore a large number of the consultation responses received were based on inaccurate information.

Councillor Burnett referred to the Council's response under Theme 8 and that if the proposals were agreed there could be a separate consultation exercise as part of the planning process were the Council to consider any feasibility and rationale for relocating nursery provision at Evenlode Primary School onto a single site, but that would be subject to a number of factors including highways, cost etc.

Councillor Gray said it was useful to go through the report in detail as there had been a great deal of interest in the matter and was 100% opposed to any move of a Nursery to the Evenlode site where local residents had already raised concerns regarding traffic issues. He said the report concerned the leadership and governance for the various schools and was frustrated that some mis-information had led to discussion about closures when that was not the case and was laid out clearly in the report and consultation documents. Councillor Gray stood for Bute Cottage remaining as its current location along with its pupils and the report sought to preserve that site but would amend the leadership and governance. He also said he had not seen any evidence that a change of leadership would be detrimental as a result of this proposal or had been the case at other amalgamated schools.

Councillor King had also been contacted by residents on the matter and agreed that there had been a certain amount of mis-information about the proposals and asked the Deputy Leader, for the avoidance of any doubt, to confirm that the proposals were not to close and relocate for any of the schools and did concern the merging of leadership and governance arrangements for the two facilities. The Deputy Leader categorically confirmed there was no proposal to close and relocate. She had been disappointed to see that there had been publication of some of the 21st Century Schools generic plans that were labelled as 'Vale Carbon Zero' school plans but had had the title removed and published in association with these proposals. Councillor Burnett said again there were no proposals to close and relocate. There would be a feasibility study carried out were the proposals to be agreed today but there was no plan for either Nursery to do anything other than be on their existing site were the report to be agreed.

Councillor McCaffer confirmed she had also been approached by residents and had conversations which again had reflected some mis-information and understood that some of the consultation responses were as a result of that mis-information. She had expected members of the public to have attended the Scrutiny Committee meeting based on the numbers of people who had responded and hoped that people would also have engaged as part of that consultation. Ultimately, it was the education provision that was the most important aspect and amending the leadership and governance would be of benefit to the children.

Councillor Williams had also been approached by residents and thanked the Deputy Leader for setting the record straight for those who had seen that mis-information.

The Leader referred to changes for the better in education and gave examples of previously being a governor at Cadoxton Infants, Juniors and Nursey schools where the Juniors and Infants merged to form a Primary with a separate Nursery and later that Nursery amalgamated also but remaining on a separate site. It behaved as one school with one Management Team, one set of governors and one education strategy which provided continuity for the staff and the children. The Council had been moving towards a primary school model for 3 to 11 years education for the last ten years which provided seamless transition and continuity of learning. He too had been sorry to see that there had been mis-information as part of the proposals.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) That the consultation report (Appendix A), the Consultation Response report (Appendix B) and other appendices included as part of the report, comprising the Equality and Community Impact Assessments were considered and noted.

(2) That the proposals to amalgamate Bute Cottage Nursery with Evenlode Primary School and Cogan Nursery with Cogan Primary School were considered and noted.

(3) That the proposals to amalgamate Bute Cottage Nursery with Evenlode Primary School and Cogan Nursery with Cogan Primary School through the publication of the proposals in the form of a statutory notice be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that all relevant information was considered by Cabinet in reaching a decision on whether to publish a statutory notice on the proposals.

(2) To ensure all primary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan offered nursery provision.

(3) To progress the proposals in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 (“the Code”).

C787 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chairman had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

**C788 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER QUARTER 2 UPDATE (REF) –
(Urgent for the need to ensure Cabinet receive the comments of the
Governance and Audit Committee in association with Item 9 on the agenda.)**

The reference from the Governance and Audit Committee of 13th December, 2021 was presented to Cabinet as contained within the agenda and was considered alongside Item 9.

The Leader requested that the reference be considered alongside Item 9 on the agenda as the matters were related.

Cabinet, having considered the reference

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of reference and the report which had been considered by the Governance and Audit Committee on 13th December, 2021 and in association with Item 9 on the agenda.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the discussion under Item 9 on the agenda.