

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 24th October, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor L. Burnett (Chair); Councillors B.E. Brooks, R.M. Birch, G. John, S. Sivagnanam, E. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

C145 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader commenced by advising of some housekeeping issues and advised that the meeting was being livestreamed, recorded and would be uploaded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting.

C146 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor S.D. Perkes.

C147 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

C148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C149 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GAMBLING ACT 2005 – 2025 TO 2028 (REF) –

The reference from Statutory Licensing Committee held on 17th September, 2024 was presented following statutory consultation that had been undertaken concerning renewal of the Statement of Principles governing licensing policy, prior to being considered by Cabinet and forwarded to Full Council for final approval

The Cabinet Member advised there were no changes to the policy proposed following the consultation and requested that Cabinet approve the Statement of Principles and refer the matter to Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED – T H A T having regard to the consultation responses and the discussion at Statutory Licensing Committee, that the proposed Statement of

Licensing Principles for 2025-2028 detailed in the report and Appendix A be approved and referred to Full Council for final approval.

Reason for decision

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

C150 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023-24 (REF) –

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 19th September, 2024 was presented.

The Cabinet Member said that there were interesting points raised at the meeting, some of which had not arisen previously, e.g. there was insufficient school transport for one Welsh Medium Primary school which was subsequently been raised with Officers within the School transport Team.

Committee also discussed the difficulty in attracting and retaining Welsh speaking teachers as there was a shortage of teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh across Wales, commenting that the Council should look to maximise the opportunities to recruit and retain teaching staff and others with Welsh language skills. The Cabinet Member said that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had applied for and gained funding to train teachers whilst in school to work towards addressing the issue.

The Committee referred a comment to Cabinet to consider a proposal that the Vale of Glamorgan considers a bid to host the 2029 Urdd Eisteddfod in Barry which the Cabinet Member was happy to support and had written to Officers accordingly. The Leader said that the National Eisteddfod had not been held in the Vale of Glamorgan since 2012 and had been hugely successful at that time and looked forward to finding out if that bid would be possible.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 19th September, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C151 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023-24 (REF) –

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 19th September, 2024 was presented.

Committee discussed School Governors undertaking safeguarding training as not all of them had completed the relevant Safeguarding modules which needed to be addressed.

There was also discussion concerning how much staff time was spent implementing safeguarding in schools with decisions taken as to how each case should be treated or referred, including Home Office PREVENT training. The Cabinet Member said that all staff were trained regularly on such matters to be aware of the different issues and challenges faced by children and young people.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 19th September, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C152 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023-24 (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 23rd September, 2024 was presented.

There was discussion concerning whether all Councillors were Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and it was confirmed that all Councillors were checked and any Councillor who had a responsibility or was on a Committee concerning children and young people or vulnerable people had an Enhanced DBS check. It was also asked if there was provision for DBS checks to be carried out on a rolling basis.

Committee also discussed abuse in the home and whether some of the figures quoted were specific to the Vale of Glamorgan or wider and whether figures were comparable to other Local Authorities, which Officers were going to respond to.

Councillor Williams added that there was recognition at both Committees that it was a Corporate safeguarding report and that both Members and staff had a duty to report any issues regarding safeguarding, which the Leader agreed was vitally important.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 23rd September, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C153 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025/26 TO 2029/30 (REF) –

The reference from the Extraordinary Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2024 was presented.

There had been discussion concerning the forecast funding gap of £9.392m for 2025/26 and that the figure was likely to grow due to emerging pressures. The Leader said that further reports considering the matter would be coming to Cabinet in the next month.

The Section 151 Officer commented that the Vale of Glamorgan was a relatively low-funded Authority and had set a relatively low level of Council Tax compared to other Local Authorities which was a challenge with increasing costs, e.g. private sector rents.

Committee discussed wide-ranging potential areas of action and recommended that Cabinet consider investment in spend to save projects and potential for a strategic procurement function. The Leader said that with regards spend to save, that was an area relative to the Reshaping agenda and the comment would be referred into that process. Regarding the strategic procurement function, the Leader said that the Council was currently in an arrangement with other Local Authorities for a shared procurement service and would pass that comment to Ardal.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations from the Extraordinary Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C154 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from the Extraordinary Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2024 was presented.

Committee considered the year end revenue position and noted there being a surplus of £2.08m at year end which was proposed to be transferred to reserves as follows:

- Establish a new and temporary £2m reserve to offset Education Deficits in 2024/25 on a provisional basis whilst the Council worked with schools on establishing a coordinated approach to tackling school deficits;
- The balance of £80k had been transferred to the General Fund.

The level of Useable Reserves had reduced in year although by less than had been projected but some of those commitments had been slipped into 2024/25 in accordance with Capital Expenditure slippage.

Committee asked Cabinet to consider the possibility of there being a dedicated procurement officer for schools which would fit in with the financial support already offered to schools, although procurement was now a matter being dealt with under a joint agreement with Ardal. Officers would be asked to investigate the suggestion. The financial position within schools was discussed and there was discussion and a recommendation for further consideration to be given for Governing bodies to be provided with further support and guidance regarding school budget deficits. The Leader said that the school-based Finance Team did work with schools and would be happy to assist Governing bodies, as well as other schools being able to offer peer support.

Committee also asked for future closure of accounts reports to detail planned and unplanned use of reserves more clearly, which the Head of Finance would look to address in future reports.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments and recommendations from the Extraordinary Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2024 be noted, with detail passed to relevant Officers for consideration.

Reason for decision

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

C155 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL –

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 8th July, 2024 were presented.

The Cabinet Member, who was the Chair of the Panel, said that the Corporate Parenting Charter had been considered at the meeting. It had been agreed that a future workshop be organised in November for the Panel to look in detail at how to meet all the relevant requirements.

The Panel also considered the latest Children Looked After figures for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Williams noted that the minutes had not yet been formally agreed by the Panel who would consider them at the November meeting and any amendments would be brought back to Cabinet or would be considered as agreed if no comments were received.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting held on 8th July, 2024 be noted, subject to consideration at the next Corporate Parenting Panel in November 2024.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

C156 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2024 were presented.

The Cabinet Member, who was reappointed as the Chair of the Committee, said that the Committee had discussed the Timetable of Meetings, navigational safety, a general progress from the Harbour Authority and an update from Natural Resource Wales on dissolved oxygen levels. There had been one minor pollution incident which had been quickly resolved.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

C157 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS ADVISORY PANEL (REF) –

The minutes of the Appointment of Local Authority Governors Advisory Panel meeting held on 9th October, 2024 were presented.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to see how many people had been prepared to put time and effort into supporting local schools as Governors. There were currently only two vacancies yet to be appointed. The Leader acknowledged the commitment that Governors made in needing to understand matters such as safeguarding, finance, school performance and thanked all those who had volunteered to take on those roles.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the minutes of the Appointment of Local Authority Governors Advisory Panel meeting held on 9th October, 2024 be noted.

(2) T H A T the following appointments be made to the schools as set out below:

School	No. of Vacancies	Appointment
All Saints CiW	1	None – remains vacant*
Cadoxton Primary	1	D. Stolzenberg
Cogan Primary	1	C. Shillabeer
Colcot Primary	1	J.D. Rogers
Cowbridge Comp	2	S. Blackman and D. Farrell
Dinas Powys Primary	1	N. Meredith
Evenlode Primary	2	A. Thomas and K. Nolan

Gladstone Primary School	1	Councillor P. Drake
High Street Primary	1	L. Banks
Holton Primary	2	J. Scott and S. Pengelly**
Jenner Park Primary	1	E. Ryles
Llangan Primary	1	E. Thomas
Llandough Primary	1	Councillor G.D.D. Carroll
Llanfair Primary	2	S. Bonnar and N. Phillips
Oakfield Primary	2	L. Banks and C. Hunt**
Pencoedtre High School	1	D. Carter
Peterston S Ely Primary	1	S. Evans
Rhws Primary	1	J. Nixon
Romilly Primary	2	M. Kennedy and C. Withycombe
South Point Primary	1	B. Millhausen
St Cyres Comprehensive	4	H. Evans; Councillor C.P. Franks; S. Pengelly and S. Dowling
St Illtyd Primary	1	M. Evans
St Nicholas CiW	1	C. Hunt
St Richard Gwyn	2	D. Carter One appointment made, one vacancy remains*
Sully Primary	1	E. Parker
Whitmore High School	2	Councillor N. Marshallsea and Councillor E. Goodjohn
Y Bont-faen	1	M. Evans
Ysgol Bro Morganwg	5	D. Griffith; G. Evans; H. Llewellyn-Morgan; R. A. Evans and S. Evans
Ysgol Pen Y Garth	1	R. Griffiths
Ysgol Sant Baruc	2	S. Evans and O. Williams

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In noting the minutes.
- (2) To endorse the appointments to be made to the schools.

C158 DRAFT CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2025/26 AND INITIAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2025/26 TO 2029/30 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to gain approval for the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2025/26 to 2029/30 so that they may be submitted to Scrutiny Committees for consultation and to set out the Draft Capital Investment Strategy for Cabinet Members to consider.

The Leader said it was important to be aware and have a clear idea of the costs of new schemes considering significant pressures in relation to price inflation of materials and labour, but that money had been put aside from reserves for some matters within the programme as well as consideration given to other potential funding such as borrowing, grants or s106 contributions.

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 Draft Capital Strategy 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- (2) T H A T the Initial Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2029/30 be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To approve the Draft Capital Strategy for 2025/26.
- (2) To consult Members on the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to 2029/30.

C159 REVISED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE THREE YEAR RESURFACING PLAN 2024 - 2027 (NBS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of the changes used to identify priority locations for resurfacing works and to agree the plan for 2024 – 2027.

Councillor Wilson said it was important to remember that the highway included use by cyclists and pedestrians as well as vehicles, including both roads and pavements. He referred to Appendix B to the report concerning the new Highway Maintenance Scoring Matrix which also included Active Travel routes as well as school / public Transport routes.

There was £2.9M in the capital programme for 2024/25, for resurfacing and treatment works such as surface dressing, micro asphalt treatment and footway improvement works, as detailed in Appendices A-1 to A-4 to the report.

The Leader said it was important to look at the various criteria, how traffic affected highways in different ways in different areas and looked forward to the discussion at Environment and Regeneration 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 contents of the revised Highway Maintenance Three Year Resurfacing Plan 2024 – 2027, as attached at Appendix A – 1, 2, 3 and 4 be noted, and the locations for resurfacing works be agreed in principle.
- (2) T H A T the changes to the carriageway prioritisation scoring matrix to incorporate active travel and cycle routes within the methodology be noted.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services to amend the Plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, if urgent highway resurfacing priorities were identified.
- (4) T H A T the matter be referred to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- (5) T H A T subject to no comments that would affect the Plan as proposed being received from the Scrutiny Committee, the Highway Maintenance Three Year Resurfacing Plan 2024 - 2027 be agreed.
- (6) T H A T where a location was listed on the Plan, the Council's technical officers within the Highway Maintenance team would prioritise the full extents, however only partial areas may be completed, simply to ensure the best allocation of budget and that any material of sound condition was not removed and replaced with new.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To agree, the Highway Maintenance Three Year Resurfacing Plan 2024 – 2027, subject to its consideration by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- (2) To ensure that areas impacting on Active Travel and routes used by cyclists, were properly considered.
- (3) To deal efficiently with changes to the Plan should other highway routes deteriorate more rapidly than expected or constraints dictate that a change in priority was required to ensure the most cost-effective use of the budget allocation.
- (4) To ensure that the relevant Scrutiny Committee could consider the details of the Highway Maintenance Three Year Resurfacing Plan 2024 – 2027, prior to it being formally agreed.
- (5) To enable the final Plan to be approved following its consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee should no comments that affect the Plan as proposed, be received.
- (6) To ensure that the Highway Resurfacing budget (2024/25), was utilised as efficiently as possible.

C160 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report seeking authority to undertake a tender process relating to the provision of the above services and sought delegated authority to award the contract to the successful provider(s).

Councillor Williams gave thanks to all the staff involved in putting together the report and for the work completed to be able to bring the matter forward for Cabinet to consider as significant need had been identified in the Vale of Glamorgan and a lot of work had been completed to put the matter forward for consideration. This was echoed by fellow Cabinet Members.

The needs of the individuals within each of the three lots were quite different, hence the need for the three different tenders.

The Leader said it was important work to avoid people in such circumstances feeling alone at such a young age and important to be able to help them.

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 Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to undertake competitive tender processes for the provision of shared temporary accommodation services for vulnerable unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people, temporary supported living accommodation for vulnerable children and young people, and emergency supported lodgings for vulnerable young people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

(2) T H A T the Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to award the contract(s) for those services for an initial period of 5 (five) years with an option to extend for up to a further 2 (two) years, following the completion of a tender process.

(3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer in the Vale of Glamorgan Council be authorised to execute a contract with the successful Provider(s).

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that the Council provided shared temporary accommodation for vulnerable unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people within the

Vale of Glamorgan in a cost-effective way that met the requirements of Welsh Government UASC Guidance and the required standards of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

(2) To ensure that the Council provided temporary supported living accommodation and emergency supported lodging placements for vulnerable children and young people within the Vale of Glamorgan in a cost-effective way that met the requirements of Welsh Government Supported Living Guidance and the required standards of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

(3) To ensure that the Council met the requirements of its Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules.

C161 SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES (SRS) - AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT (JWA) (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report which recommended and sought approval for a change to the Joint Working Agreement between the partner Councils for the provision of Regulatory Services. The change would see the addition of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 to the list of functions delegated to the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Joint 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 proposed change to the Joint Working Agreement under a Deed of Variation between the partner Councils for the provision of Regulatory Services be endorsed and recommended the same to Full Council for consideration and approval.

(2) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to execute the required Deed of Variation reflecting the change when approved by Full Council.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that appropriate approvals were sought in relation to the proposed change to the Joint Working Agreement through the addition of the Public Health Wales Act 2017 to the list of functions delegated to the Joint Committee and contained in Part 1 to Schedule 1 of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Working Agreement to be agreed by all three partner Councils.

(2) To enable the proper execution of the Deed of Variation to reflect the change within the Joint Working Agreement on approval by Full Council.