

## **CABINET**

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 28th November, 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.D. Perkes, S. Sivagnanam and E. Williams.

Also Present: Councillor J.E. Charles.

### **C169 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.

### **C170 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### **C171 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **C172 DRAFT TREE STRATEGY (REF) –**

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 was presented.

Councillor Wilson had attended the Committee meeting and thanked the Committee for the positive discussion and subsequent recommendations to Cabinet. The Leader said that the comments from the Committee were reflected with the Council's intention to improve partnership working as part of the draft Corporate Plan that was currently under consultation.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T consideration would be given to how communication could be strengthened to ensure that members of the public understand why and when trees had been removed in their local area.

- (2) T H A T the relevant website would be strengthened to help facilitate greater information sharing around trees and stronger engagement with Vale of Glamorgan Council Elected Members and Town/Community Councillors.
- (3) T H A T the Council would continue to use all available leverage and means at its disposal to ensure that local developers safeguard and retain existing trees and that the new Local Development Plan should specifically set out how developers would be required to deliver on their commitments to plant trees as part of the process.
- (4) T H A T further opportunities be promoted for local community volunteers to support the implementation of the Tree Strategy, and to help provide them with the means of undertaking that i.e. consideration would be given on how volunteers could be given easier access to watering trees, such as the use of water bowsers.
- (5) T H A T the development, implementation and responses to the consultation process for the Tree Strategy would be considered as an exemplar of best practice and a clear demonstration of how the Vale of Glamorgan Council can listen and respond to comments and feedback made by the public and other stakeholders in an effective and fair way. The approach would be, where appropriate, rolled out and mirrored across other consultation process undertaken by the Council.

Reason for decisions

(1-5) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

**C173 RESHAPING PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES – A RESPONSE TO AUDIT WALES REPORTS ON TACKLING POVERTY AND THIRD SECTOR WORKING (REF) –**

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 was presented.

The Leader referred to one of the comments referred to Cabinet concerning holding the various third sector organisations and partners that it works with to account. That was not part of the relationship the Council had with those partners, rather all parties made clear their shared aims and monitored and evaluated activity.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) T H A T the general comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Council would refer the recommendation to undertake detailed mapping of the sector to develop a comprehensive understanding of the size and makeup of the sector within the County to Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee for consideration.

(3) T H A T partnership initiatives with third sector organisations and partners would continue to be monitored and evaluated.

(4) T H A T the future Peer Panel Assessments report to Cabinet would report on the benefits of working with various external agencies and third sector partners which would provide the Council with an external perspective of the organisation and the opportunity to look at best practice from this sector which could be taken on board by the Council in its own workstreams and practices and would include Town and Community Councils.

Reason for decisions

(1-4) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

**C174 RESHAPING PROGRAMME UPDATE (REF) –**

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 was presented.

The Leader said there had been a good discussion concerning ‘Brilliant Basics’ regarding getting key services right and easily accessible to residents, as well as timescales for implementation of the measures for the Reshaping Programme.

**RESOLVED –**

(1) T H A T the potential benefits of the Council utilising a Zero-Based Budgeting approach in helping with the Reshaping Programme and Council budgeting or prioritisation of services and the benefits and importance of the Council adopting the ‘Brilliant Basics’ approach and priority in order to provide better service delivery to residents be noted.

(2) T H A T a meeting was being progressed to discuss the comments and concerns raised at the Committee meeting about the Community Asset Transfer process, the potential complexity of, the community involvement with, and Council officer resourcing to support the process.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

**C175 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, PLAY DEVELOPMENT, 60+ ACTIVE LEISURE SCHEME AND NATIONAL EXERCISE REFERRAL SCHEME (REF) –**

The reference from Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 was presented.

Councillor John said that at the meeting the Chair had passed on their sincere thanks to all the relevant members of staff who were providing an important service for residents of the Vale, which was echoed by the Leader. Councillor John also commended the supporting video to Cabinet for information.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and the supporting video shown at the Committee meeting be noted.

(2) T H A T the good practice being undertaken by the Sports and Play Development, Exercise Referral, and the 60+ Active Leisure Scheme Teams be noted.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

**C176 LOCAL ACCESS FORUM –**

The minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting held on 27th July, 2024 were presented.

Councillor Williams referred to a lot of the work done in the Vale of Glamorgan by both Officers and volunteers including discussions at the meeting regarding Legal Orders and Evidential Modification Orders updates, grant funding overview, evaluation and feedback on the previous Local Access Forum workshop and a presentation by Natural Resources Wales on the Wales Coastal Path.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C177 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –**

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 were presented.

Councillor Wilson referred to discussions at the meeting regarding a Navigational Safety and General Progress report, including issues such as the amount of debris coming down the river following recent poor weather, and an update from Natural Resources Wales which noted good Dissolved Oxygen levels and no recent pollution incidents reported.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C178 Q2 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2024/2025 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report to update Members of the Cabinet on the sickness absence statistics for 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024.

The report would be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration and the Leader looked forward to the subsequent discussion by the 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 and the (April 2024 to September 2024) sickness absence figures provided in Appendix A be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to 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 of the Cabinet 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.

**C179 QUARTER 2 REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report to advise Cabinet of the Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring position for 2024/25.

Monitoring to the end of September 2024 showed an increase in the Social Services overspend in-year across both Children's and Young People Services as well as an

emerging overspend in school transport due to complexities of need and demographic increases in Additional Learning Needs (ALN). There had been a previous decision to act regarding delays in hospital discharges which had an associated cost. Those alongside inflationary pressures had increased in excess of the previous allocation and would be addressed as part of upcoming 2025/26 budgetary discussions and the ongoing Reshaping Programme. There were also pressures across highway maintenance, street cleansing and ALN.

The Schools Budget Taskforce continued to review the position in schools and worked closely with schools in a deficit position and further resource to support schools was currently being considered to be funded from reserves.

All ongoing use of reserves were being considered by Senior Leadership Team and there were recruitment controls in place unless roles fulfilled a statutory requirement. Any further expenditure was being monitored by the Accountancy Team and some workstreams that had been identified as part of the Reshaping Programme would be accelerated.

Additional grant funding was available for homelessness and housing pressures in year and reflected in a reduced draw-down from the reserve. The Rapid Rehousing programme was having an effect and it was considered that the reserve use would be stepped down in 2025/26.

Unplanned use of reserves alongside other commitments would see reserves projected to reduce to £50m at year-end and would ensure that the Council Fund was maintained at the policy level set by the S151 Officer for the financial year.

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 position with regard to the Authority's 2024/25 Revenue Budget be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Revised Budget 2024/25 set out as part of the report be approved.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To inform Cabinet of the projected revenue outturn for 2024/25.
- (2) To update the Revised Budget for 2024/25.

**C180 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The Leader presented the report to advise Cabinet of the progress on the 2024/25 Capital Programme for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 and to request changes to the Capital Programme.

If all the requests to amend the Capital Programme within the report were agreed the revised forecast outturn was projected to be slightly over £90m, with a spend of just over £25m to the end of June.

The inclusion of monitoring by Directorate has helped to successfully deliver the capital programmes, however many areas continued to experience increasing costs for scheme delivery and some retendering of schemes had been required. Officers continued to work with project managers and sponsors to ensure that value for money was being achieved and that all possible funding opportunities were identified and fully explored.

Councillor John referred to paragraph 2.6 on page 5 of the report concerning Sports Wales grant funding, advising that all the listed schemes had now been completed and confirmation recently received that further funding of £50k of a £70k proposal for new flooring at Cowbridge Leisure Centre. Councillor John thanked Sports Wales for their ongoing support, which was echoed by the Leader, as such works would not have proceeded without that grant funding.

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 progress made on delivering the 2024/25 Capital Programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority as set out in the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (4) T H A T the following changes to the 2024/25 Capital Programme and future years Capital Programme be approved:
  - Band B Ysgol Y Deri – Reprofile this scheme budget as set out in paragraph 2.24.
  - Band B Contingency – Remove this scheme budget of £18k from the 2024/25 Capital Programme and use this funding under the Ysgol lolo Morgannwg scheme.
  - Education Asset renewal - Contingency – Reduce the scheme budget by £37k and use this funding under Ysgol lolo Morgannwg.

- Early Years and Childcare – Cadoxton – Increase this scheme budget by £190k in the 2024/25 Capital Programme, to be funded by Welsh Government grant.
- Free School Meals – Victoria Primary – Carry forward £372k of this scheme budget to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- St Brides Major Lobby Refurbishment – Increase this scheme budget by £6k in the 2024/25 Capital Programme, to be funded from the school's revenue budget.
- Review of revenue spend over £10k – Include capital schemes as part of a review of revenue spend as set out in paragraph 2.12 to 2.13 of this report.
- Romilly Primary - Merge this scheme with the Romilly Primary Roof and rainwater goods repairs to Sports Hall scheme on the 2024/25 Capital Programme to create one scheme named Romilly Primary Sports Hall works with a budget of £238k.
- Ventilation Works at Bro Morgannwg – Request to include a budget of £6k to be funded from the Education Asset Renewal Contingency Budget.
- Dinas Powys Junior – modular classroom – Request to increase this scheme budget in the 2024/25 Capital Programme by £19k, to be funded, £12k Welsh Government grant and £7k from the Early Years revenue budget.
- Social Services Electric Bike Scheme – Include this scheme with a budget of £7k, to be funded from UK Government Shared Prosperity Grant.
- Vehicle Replacement Programme – Increase this scheme budget in the 2024/25 Capital Programme by £23k, to be funded from grant funding.
- Dinas Powys Flood Resilience – Increase the scheme budget by £637k to be funded from grant and reprofile the budget as set out in paragraph 2.26.
- Penarth Marina Landslip – Slope Stabilisation Works – Carry forward £1m of this scheme budget to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Retaining Wall Windsor Road – Carry forward £200k of the scheme budget to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Llanmaes Construction – Request to carry forward this scheme budget of £518k into the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Atlantic Trading Estate – Operations Fleet Parking – Vire £32k to this scheme from the Circular Economy - Sorting equipment and Baler scheme budget.
- Target Hardening – Include this scheme with a budget of £44k in the 2024/25 Capital Programme, to be funded by Welsh Government grant.
- Housing Improvement Programme – Carry forward £7.219m of this programme into the 2025/26 Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 2.30.
- Restore the Thaw – Carry forward £200k of this grant funded budget into the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Empty Homes Grant – Carry forward £130k of this scheme budget to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Tackling Food Security – Request to increase this scheme budget by £37k, to be funded by grant.
- Ysgol Sant Curig Lighting Renewal – Carry forward this scheme budget of £45k to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- Penarth Learning Community PV Panels – Rename this scheme Penarth Learning Community PV Panels and LED Lighting.

- Barry Leisure Centre PV Panels – Carry forward this scheme budget of £17k into the 2025/26 Capital Programme.
- St Richard Gwyn Redevelopment – Reprofile this scheme in the current and future year's programme as detailed in paragraph 2.35.
- Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg – Reprofile this scheme in the current and future year's programme as set out in paragraph 2.36.
- Changing Rooms, Ancillary facilities and replacement boxing club at the Buttrills playing field – Remove this scheme from the 2024/25 Capital Programme.
- Non-Treasury Investment Strategy – Reprofile this scheme budget as set out in paragraph 2.37.

### Reasons for decisions

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

### **C181 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2024/25 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report to provide a mid-year report on the Authority's Treasury Management operations for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024.

The report considered an economic update which looked at the factors that drove the UK economy during the period under review and an analysis of interest rate forecast for the period December 2024 to March 2027. There were no policy changes to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 as at 30th September 2024.

Following advice all new loans would be borrowed over the shorter term as interest rates were forecast to fall.

This was a matter for referral to Full Council for 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 2024 to 30th September 2024 be approved and the same referred to Full Council on 2nd of December 2024, for consideration.

- (2) T H A T the latest Treasury Management indicators as set out in Appendix 1 be approved and referred to Full Council on 2nd of December 2024, for consideration.
- (3) T H A T notwithstanding Resolutions (1) and (2), the report also be forwarded to the next Governance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for consideration and discussion.
- (4) T H A T use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be agreed to enable the matter to be considered by Full Council on 2nd December, 2024.

#### 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 were included in the Treasury Management Strategy.
- (3) To present the report to the Governance and Audit Committee in accordance with the remit of the Committee.
- (4) To allow consideration of the matter by Full Council.

#### **C182 INITIAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET REVISED BUDGET 2024/25 AND PROPOSALS 2025/26 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report to gain Cabinet approval for the Housing Revenue Account revised budget for 2024/25 and the initial budget proposals for 2025/26 and to take the proposals forward for consultation with Homes and Safe Communities and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees.

There was £1.095m increase in costs, most notably for repairs where there had been significant inflationary and supply issues experienced, which had been off-set by in-year savings and efficiencies of £1.109m against bad and doubtful debt.

For 2025/26, the initial proposals were being developed with committed growth with additional capital financing costs and repairs expenditure as the main drivers, met in-part by the rental income increase.

The report would be considered by Scrutiny Committees as well as Budget Working Group in November before coming back to Cabinet and Council in January 2025.

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 revised Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25 as set out in paragraph 2.2 be approved.
- (2) T H A T the initial Housing Revenue Account budget proposal for 2025/26 as set out in paragraph 2.11 be approved.
- (3) T H A T Cabinet the revised 2024/25 budget and initial proposals for 2025/26 be submitted to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration and that any recommendations are forwarded to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as the lead Scrutiny Committee in order for their recommendations to be forwarded to Cabinet.
- (4) T H A T the increase for rent and other services be noted and subject to a future report to Cabinet as soon as the guidance was issued by the Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To facilitate monitoring of the amended Housing Revenue Account Budget.
- (2) To gain approval for the initial 2025/26 budget proposals.
- (3) In order to gain the views of Scrutiny Committee regarding the revised 2024/25 and initial 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account Budget proposals.
- (4) In order to meet the deadline to notify tenants of the new charges as required by Statute.

**C183 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 TO 2029/30 REFRESH AND UPDATE (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The Leader presented the report to refresh the assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan and provide an update on the Chancellor's UK Budget announcement and progress on the 2025/26 budget.

There had been extensive work across the summer and autumn refreshing the assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan with all the expected cost pressures and inflation figures for all matters that affected the Council, which then showed the gap between delivering services as the Council would want against the income the Council was projected to receive. Once the Welsh Government settlement was received, the figures would be revised and reported to Scrutiny and Cabinet as part of the budget setting process in the new year.

The Leader said the Vale of Glamorgan Council was the second lowest funded of all Welsh Counties and was also a low Council Tax Authority. As reported previously there were growing Additional Learning Needs requirements as well as Social Care and school transport pressures, along with challenging financial positions in some

schools that were expected to continue over the next year and into the medium term and would put pressure on other Departments year-on-year.

Council Tax was currently being modelled at 3.9%, with a forecast increase of only 1% in Welsh Government grant, however recent UK Government announcements including the Chancellor's UK budget announcement in October were better than expected for the public sector. There was additional funding announced for health, Social Care and schools at a UK level with £1.7bn in consequentials for Wales, but further detail would be contained in the Welsh Government settlement which was due to be announced on 10th December.

The Council had underlying pressures of £34m and as such a thorough review of those was undertaken in order to deliver a balanced budget and had been managed down to £23m. Work was ongoing through the Reshaping Programme to bridge the gap and proposals would be brought to Cabinet for consideration in January 2025 before going out for public consultation and to Scrutiny Committees.

The Council continued to lobby Welsh Government for the appropriate level of resources for Local Authorities for a fairer funding settlement.

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 revised budget gap of £14.838m in 2025/26 and £43.422m across the medium term be noted.

(2) T H A T the underlying pressures in 2025/26 of £34.325m and Budget Gap of £25.948m before management action be noted.

(3) T H A T the work already undertaken to manage and mitigate the unprecedented inflationary and demand pressures being experienced be noted.

(4) T H A T the ongoing work to identify transformational opportunities and tactical savings to be brought forward in the Budget for Consultation report in January be noted.

(5) T H A T the low prospects for an improved settlement and the upward pressure on Council Tax be noted.

(6) T H A T the ongoing be noted as part of work to lobby Welsh Government for:

- Improved funding settlements to cover the growth in ALN, Social Care, Education, Transport and Homelessness costs;
- A review of the funding mechanism, especially the formula for Schools; and
- An uplift to statutory fee levels for care contributions and planning fees.

(7) T H A T the prospect of a UK multi-year settlement to be announced in the Spring Budget be noted

(8) T H A T the report be referred to the Council's Scrutiny Committees to review the work mitigating the cost pressures for consideration and for any recommendations to be referred back to Cabinet.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To make Cabinet aware of the financial challenge facing the Council in 2025/26.

(2) To make Cabinet aware of the risk that will be inherent in budget setting for 2025/26.

(3) To provide transparency on those cost pressures which Council would not be able to accommodate in the 2025/26 Budget.

(4) To confirm the approach to balancing the budget and give assurance that the work was underway.

(5) To provide clarity on the need to balance the budget through a range of measures.

(6) To continue to make the case for funding to support financial sustainability in the face of mounting costs and demand across a range of services and that there was fair settlement for the Vale's schools and that statutory fees were set at a level which enabled the Council to cover its costs.

(7) To make Cabinet aware of the positive prospect of a multi-year settlement which would support financial planning and sustainability.

(8) To ensure an open and transparent approach to financial management in line with the approved Financial Strategy.

#### **C184 RESPONDING TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF WELSH GOVERNMENT'S MIDDLE TIER REVIEW – FUTURE DIRECTION FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICES (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval about the future direction for school improvement services in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Birch said that there would still be areas of expertise each Local Authority would be responsible for.

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 update on Welsh Government 'Review of roles and responsibilities of education partners in Wales and delivery of school improvement arrangements' – the Middle Tier review as set out in the content of the report, and at Annex A and Annex B, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the proposals for the future direction for school improvement services in the Vale of Glamorgan be approved in principle.
- (3) T H A T further reports detailing operating model with specific financial, HR and Legal implications and final models in the spring of 2025 would be considered by Cabinet.
- (4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Learning and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language to respond to the outcomes of the review and meet the required deadlines for the transition to new arrangements as required by the Welsh Government.

Reason for decisions

(1-4) To ensure that Cabinet are appraised of the work underway in response to the national Middle Tier review and to ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council can respond to the outcomes of the review and meet the required deadlines for the transition to new arrangements as required by the Welsh Government.

**C185 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – FORECAST FINAL ACCOUNT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEOL CROESO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT, LLANTWIT MAJOR (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to inform Cabinet of a proposal to agree the Forecast Final Account with Wates Residential Ltd (Wates) after the completion of the contract to deliver the Heol Croeso Temporary Accommodation Project at Llantwit Major (the Scheme).

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 proposal to agree the Forecast Final Account with Wates Residential Ltd for the completion of the Scheme be noted.

(2) T H A T the requirement for Cabinet to take formal decisions on the progression of the above proposal, as part of the wider considerations detailed in the Part II report later on the agenda be agreed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To advise Cabinet of the intention to agree the Forecast Final Account with Wates Residential Ltd.

(2) To ensure decisions were made to conclude all financial matters relating to the completion of the contract.

**C186 HOUSING PAS2035 RETROFIT SCHEME 2024/25 (PSHTE)  
(SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of a request to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing PAS2035 Retrofit Scheme 2024/25. Both Councillor Perkes and the Leader said that it was an exciting pilot project. The Leader said the Council did have a commitment to achieve zero carbon and the pilot project would be a learning journey to achieving that goal, adding it would be interesting to hear how residents felt about the pilot project after its conclusion.

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 be noted, with a view to taking a decision on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on the agenda.

(2) T H A T use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's constitution be agreed to enable the contract arrangements to be expedited.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To advise Cabinet of the Housing PAS2035 Retrofit Scheme 2024/25 and of the tender process for the work.

(2) To ensure that a contract for the work could be executed in time for works to commence in January 2025, to permit Welsh Government grant timescales to be achieved.

**C187 LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2024 (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek approval for the 2024 Local Air Quality Management Annual Progress Report (APR) on air quality monitoring conducted in 2023 to enable submission to Welsh Government no later than 31st December 2024. Councillor Sivagnanam said that no sites in the Vale of Glamorgan had breached nitrogen dioxide national annual objectives.

Welsh Government had incorporated World Health Organisation recommendations around air quality in the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 which would likely place more stringent and wider reporting measures on air quality moving forward.

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 monitored results gathered in 2023 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the 2024 Annual Progress Report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for submission to Welsh Government for approval.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) To fulfil the requirements of the statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, with the report containing results of air quality data captured in 2023.

**C188 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

**C189 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – FORECAST FINAL ACCOUNT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEOL CROESO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT, LLANTWIT MAJOR (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 14) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to inform Cabinet of a proposal to agree the Forecast Final Account with Wates Residential Ltd (Wates) after the completion

of the contract to deliver the Heol Croeso Temporary Accommodation Project at Llantwit Major (the Scheme).

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 cost increase of £1,607,166.08 to the original contract sum with Wates be approved.
- (2) T H A T the Forecast Final Account negotiated with Wates in concluding the contract and the revised contract sum of £25,373,637.08 be accepted.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement and Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, to deal with all matters relating to agreeing the Forecast Final Account with Wates.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To be in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules.
- (2) To allow Officers to conclude all financial matters relating to the completion of the contract.
- (3) To conclude all financial matters relating to the completion of the contract.

**C190 HOUSING PAS2035 RETROFIT SCHEME 2024/25 (PSHTE)  
(SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) (EXEMPT INFORMATION –  
PARAGRAPHS 12, 14 AND 12A) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing PAS2035 Retrofit Scheme 2024/25.

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 Housing PAS2035 Retrofit Scheme 2024/25 contract to Surefire Management Services Ltd be approved.

(2) T H A T Legal Services be authorised to execute a JCT Intermediate (with Contractors Design) Contract 2016 with Surefire Management Services Ltd.

(3) T H A T use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's constitution be agreed to enable the contract arrangements to be expedited.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, which required 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.

(3) To ensure that a contract for the work could be executed in time for works to commence in January 2025, to permit Welsh Government grant timescales to be achieved.