

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 5th December, 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, E. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

C191 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.

C192 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C193 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2025-2027 (REF) –

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 4th November, 2024 was presented.

The Cabinet Member said there was an interesting discussion with a variety of questions raised by the Committee, mostly regarding matters concerning Additional Learning Needs. Committee made the following Recommendations to Cabinet as part of the proposed consultation exercise which Cabinet agreed were:-

- The importance of assessing and considering the needs of the children that were not in education and not homeschooled and how the Council accounted for them as part of the Strategy, including any additional learning needs they may have.
- The positive benefits of building the second Ysgol Y Deri school through providing extra capacity for additional learning needs.
- The importance of continued provision of comprehensive and agile specialist outreach services that support children with learning difficulties across mainstream schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, to the same high standard.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be noted and agreed as part of the consultation exercise.

Reason for decision

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

C194 6 MONTH UPDATE REPORT ON LOCAL BUS SERVICES IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (REF) –

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 12th November, 2024 was presented.

The Deputy Leader said that the Committee had received a presentation at the meeting and updates on matters including contract awards and funding, accessibility of bus timetables, regional partnership working and connectivity.

A strong and robust discussion took place at the Committee meeting with a number of questions asked and points raised with local Members having an opportunity to discuss issues within their own wards and concerns of residents that had been raised with them directly.

There was concern about the provision of local school bus and transport services and a specific query raised regarding pupils who did not qualify for free school transport from Barry Island to Whitmore School. The Authority was close to a £1.2m overspend on school transport which meant a need to concentrate on statutory duty or providing free school transport for those who met qualifying criteria.

Committee also expressed concern about the discussions that were happening around passenger numbers between bus service providers and Welsh Government which were not being shared with the Council. Committee asked that Cabinet used its discussions at various levels of Welsh Government in order to highlight greater data sharing and the other comments/issues raised which was acknowledged and would be progressed at Welsh Government and Regional Transport Authority level.

A further report would be provided to Committee on 10th December 2024 regarding the reintroduction of the Greenlinks G1 service.

Councillor John thanked the Cabinet and in particular the Deputy Leader for supporting bus services in the Western Vale. The Deputy Leader thanked the Officers concerned who kept up to date with changes to services as they happened and worked to support services across the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Leader said that the Authority continued to work with Transport for Wales and UK Government to increase capacity on lines going forward.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet would highlight greater data sharing and the other comments/issues raised and would be progressed at Welsh Government and Regional Transport Authority level.

Reason for decisions

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

C195 USE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S EMERGENCY POWERS (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report to notify Cabinet of the exercising of Emergency Powers by the Chief Executive since the last report on 5th September, 2024.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Chief Executive's Emergency Powers be noted

Reason for decision

To inform Cabinet.

C196 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2026/2027 (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to consult on the Local Authority's school admission arrangements as required by the Welsh Government's School Admission Code issued in July 2013.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the consultation required to agree Local Authority admission arrangements (Appendix A) for all community schools in the Vale of Glamorgan be approved.

Reason for decision

Para 2.3 (page 6) of the School Admissions Code (Wales) July 2013 stated that "Admission Arrangements must be consulted on for each maintained school between 1st September and 1st March and be set by 15th April of the school years beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply".