

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 1st May, 2025.

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.

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

C320 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.

C321 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C322 DECLARATION OF INTEREST –

Councillor Williams declared a prejudicial interest with regards Agenda Item 13 - Asset Transfers – Llantwit Major Town Council, as a member of Llantwit Major Town Council, but had dispensation from Standards Committee to remain in the meeting and speak on vote on the matter.

C323 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (REF) –

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd March, 2025 was presented.

The Leader said that the comments from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had been taken into consideration as part of the preparation of the associated report under Item 8 on the agenda and moved that the two items be considered together, which was agreed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be noted and would be taken into consideration with the associated report under Item 8 on the meeting agenda.

Reason for decision

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

C324 CORPORATE RISK: QUARTER 3 UPDATE (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 24th March, 2025 was presented.

The Leader said that Governance and Audit Committee had made a number of Recommendations and that two of them referred specifically to Cabinet:-

(3) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the views of the Governance and Audit Committee in that it should be aware of the increased risk and direction of travel for the following risks:

- Additional Learning Needs;
- Information and Cyber Security Risk;
- Climate Change and Nature Emergency Risk;
- Social Care Demand and Capacity Risk; and
- The Physical Assets Risk.

(4) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the concern of heightened risks in relation to the Financial Resources and the Barry Regeneration/Making Waves project, and that the Strategic Leadership Team be requested to consider these risks in detail.

The Leader reassured Members of Governance and Audit Committee that all of the risks listed were frequently part of Senior Leadership Team agendas and discussions as well as both formal and informal discussion by Cabinet.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C325 Q3 UPDATE: AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME 2024 – VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 24th March, 2025 was presented, having been referred to Cabinet by Governance and Audit Committee for oversight.

The Leader said that the work done by various regulatory bodies to evaluate the Council's performance gave reassurance to both the public and the Council that the Council was performing well.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Q3 update of Audit Wales's Work Programme be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C326 CORPORATE RESOURCES DIRECTORATE PLAN 2025/26 (INCLUDING ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ASSOCIATED PERFORMANCE TARGETS) TO DELIVER VALE 2030, THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 9th April, 2025 was presented.

The Leader said that the comments from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee which had considered the contributions from all Scrutiny Committees had been taken into consideration as part of the preparation of the associated report under Item 9 on the agenda and moved that the two items be considered together, which was agreed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be noted and would be taken into consideration with the associated report under Item 9 on the meeting agenda.

Reason for decision

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

C327 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report to present quarter 3 performance results for the period 1st April, 2024 to 31st December, 2024 in delivering our 2024/25 Annual Delivery Plan commitments as aligned to our Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The Leader that the report considered the quarter 3 performance results up to 31st December, 2024 and that the Council would soon be evaluating the full year performance as part of the Self Assessment process. Paragraphs 2.7 to 2.12 of the report detailed the outcome of Scrutiny Committees discussions where all Committees noted both the Quarter 3 performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 commitments as aligned to the Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the relevant Committee and the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the relevant Committee.

Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee also asked Cabinet to consider comments, which Cabinet noted, related to:

- Statistics in relation to fixed term exclusions and ALN Pupils would be shared with the Committee;
- Pupil attainment levels in relation to reading/literacy would sit nicely within the Annual Delivery Plan;
- Concern regarding an amber rating for SCL/A015 - Work in partnership across the Council to establish sustainable solutions for school transport services and where possible make use of public transport where feasible.

The Leader said there was an upcoming learner travel summit organised by Welsh Government that looked to tackle transport issues and help young people to use public transport more and help bus and train services to become more sustainable.

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 Q3 performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 commitments as aligned to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the views and recommendations of Scrutiny Committees in relation to Q3 performance be considered and identified remedial actions as the basis to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified be noted.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrated the progress being made towards achieving its commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.

(2) To ensure the Council was effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to meet our performance requirements as outlined in the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and reflected the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximised its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.

C328 VALE OF GLAMORGAN ANNUAL STATEMENT 2025/26 AND DIRECTORATE PLANS 2025/26 (INCLUDING PLANNED ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ASSOCIATED PERFORMANCE TARGETS) TO DELIVER VALE 2030, THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report to seek Cabinet's approval of the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Statement, planned in-year priority activities, performance

measures and associated performance targets as reflected in Directorate Plans for the period 2025/26 that would deliver Vale 2030.

The new Scrutiny structure had been designed to fit more accurately with Vale 2030 and was focused on outcomes and would work more effectively going forward. Feedback across all Scrutiny Committees had been gathered and fed back to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as the lead Committee and had been included in the final report to Cabinet. Paragraph 2.14 of the report detailed the comments and recommendations from the five Scrutiny Committees and the proposed response to each. The Annual Statement attached to the report at Appendix B was more accessible and easier to engage with.

Councillor Wilson referred to the piloting of soft plastics collection listed in Appendix B and was pleased that the pilot was going well with 2.5 kg collected in the last week. He thanked the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and the relevant Officers for supporting that pilot. Also evidenced on Page 71 of Appendix A was the Council's commitment to tree planting and the Council's Tree Strategy, with 2,393 trees planted last year and 2,500 planned for the current year.

Councillor John referred to Page 58 of Appendix A which referred to the provision of affordable and accessible ways for people to participate in leisure, play, sport, cultural and heritage activities. The target was for the leisure contract to be extended and the site of former C1V offices redeveloped to provide additional indoor sporting opportunities, which would be ready shortly. It was hoped there would be an increased number of leisure centre members and general user numbers over previous years, including an increase in the numbers of children involved in sports and play activities. It was also planned over the next year to secure an extension to the current leisure contract up until 2034.

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 feedback from all five Scrutiny Committees regarding the planned directorate activities, performance measures and associated targets for 2025/26 as contained in Directorate Plans (Appendix A) and as detailed in the composite reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee in its role as lead Committee for performance, as well as the proposed responses from Officers as highlighted in paragraph 2.14 of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T, subject to Resolution (1), the planned Directorate activities, performance measures and associated targets for 2025/26 as contained in Directorate Plans (Appendix A) and reflective of the considerations in the report be approved.

(3) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Statement 2025/26 (Appendix B) be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the recommendations following Scrutiny of the five Directorate Plans 2025/26 and any proposed amendments to the Directorate Plans were considered.
- (2) To ensure that the planned activities, performance measures and associated targets contained in Directorate Plans became the main means through which performance against Vale 2030 was monitored and measured during 2025/2026.
- (3) To provide an overview of the Council's key areas of focus in 2025/26 to deliver the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Vale 2030 commitments.

C329 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 20th February, 2025.

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.

C330 MIGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO CLOUD (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the Part I report to seek Cabinet's approval to initiate a migration of the Council's core computing and storage infrastructure to a hybrid cloud environment. The programme of work was a strategic response to current and future digital requirements, addressing significant risks within the Council's current infrastructure while positioning the organisation to deliver scalable, secure and sustainable digital services in line with its corporate objectives.

The challenge was to ensure that the Council was fully protected against any loss of information should there be any catastrophe in the infrastructure or breach of security. Information was held on servers within the Council but the infrastructure was ageing and required full replacement within 5 years. A cooling failure in August 2023 showed how the Council was vulnerable as a result of using a single site and restricted the Council's damage recovery capability.

The information held by the Authority was vital in allowing the Council to be able to provide services to the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and disruption could put people at risk.

Officers had provided a great deal of detail concerning the various issues as shown in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.27 of the report, and the procurement matters would be discussed further under the associated Part II report on the agenda.

Councillor Williams said it was a technical report with some complex language but emphasised that disaster recovery was so important to consider. He thanked Officers for the report and the matter would be considered further as part of the associated Part II report.

The Leader said that Cabinet had had numerous briefing sessions and discussions on the issues and echoed Councillor Williams' thanks to Officers for a comprehensive report.

Councillor Wilson also thanked Officers and said there were a number of advantages to cloud-based systems including information being backed-up by infrastructure elsewhere and there being no need for a server room that required cooling and would therefore contribute to Project Zero targets as part of the declared climate emergency.

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 strategy as described in the report for the implementation of a programme of work to migrate the Council's computing and storage infrastructure to the Cloud be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet would consider the associated Part II report on the agenda, with a view to taking decisions on the completion of a procurement exercise and subsequent award of a contract to a preferred supplier, within the costs outlined in the report, including the use of the Digital reserve.
- (3) T H A T the anticipated offset of revenue costs by eliminating future capital investment requirements and the requirement to recognise a future pressure on the Council's revenue budget be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable Cabinet to consider the options available and confirm approval of the 'strategy' on the implementation of a programme of work to migrate the Council's computing and storage infrastructure to move to the Cloud.

(2) To allow the completion of a procurement exercise and subsequent award of a contract to a preferred supplier, to achieve best value for the outcome and programme's delivery in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Code of Practice.

(3) To acknowledge the transition from capital expenditure to revenue for technology infrastructure and the requirement to reflect an increase in revenue costs as a result.

C331 UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME – ST RICHARD GWYN (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval for the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) team to submit Full Business Case for St Richard Gwyn High School.

Councillor Birch in referring to the tender costs said it was known that all supplies of building materials and the cost of importing materials and paying skilled workers had increased and the contractor issued the tender to the subcontractors on a 'Not to exceed' figure rather than a competitive tender. The total of the work packages returned from sub-contractors totalled £63.9m. This was over the £59m construction cost that had originally been anticipated, however, there was an opportunity to bring that figure down when undertaking value engineering throughout project delivery.

Funding for the scheme was set out in the table within paragraph 5.5 of the report, however there was no financial commitment at this stage and the report sought approval from Cabinet to proceed with the submission of the Full Business Case.

The Council's contribution of £8.987m was included as part of the Council's Capital Programme. £5.017m of the grant was Net Zero Carbon grant which was 100% funded by Welsh Government, therefore the prudential borrowing required was £3.912m.

The report demonstrated the Council's commitment to 21st Century schools for all children and would be the last of the Secondary Schools to be re-built to a high standard in the Vale of Glamorgan and worthy of borrowing £3.912m which would result in a total revenue repayment cost of circa £162k per annum over the next 50 years.

The Leader said that whenever a new school had been opened that the message to the children of the Vale of Glamorgan was that the Council wanted to invest in their future and they were worth every pound spent. There had been an in-depth discussion concerning the £4m shortfall for the scheme and whether it should wait until the Council had the money to cover that shortfall, but it was felt that as this was the final Secondary School to be renewed in the last ten years and should be taken forward if possible and hoped that residents of the Vale of Glamorgan would agree with that investment.

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 approval to submit Full Business Case for St Richard Gwyn High School to Welsh Government be granted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in order for the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) team to submit Full Business Case by 2nd May deadline.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To seek grant approval from Welsh Government to develop St Richard Gwyn High School.
- (2) To enable the SCfL team to submit the Full Business Case by 2nd May deadline.

**C332 ASSET TRANSFERS – LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL (NBS)
(SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to agree the transfer of a number of car parks and public conveniences in Llantwit Major, to Llantwit Major Town Council, as part of the Council's Reshaping Services programme.

Councillor Wilson said that a number of processes had been undertaken to bring forward the report and thanked both the Officers and Llantwit Major Town Council for their part in bringing the report forward.

Llantwit Major Town Council notified the Vale of Glamorgan Council that it would like to take responsibility for the car park and toilets at the Town Hall, Boverton Road toilets, Wine Street, car park and the section of a car park that the Vale of Glamorgan Council owns at Boverton Road, in Llantwit Major on a long term lease for 99 years. The request was considered under the 2018 protocol for the operation and transfer of assets or services to Town and Community Councils in the Vale of Glamorgan and was contingent on roof repairs being completed to the satisfaction of the Town Council.

Councillor John was delighted that an agreement had been reached between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Llantwit Major Town Council which secured the long-term future of free use car parks in the area.

Councillor Williams said that the local community had had input into what were assets for the local area and glad that an agreement had been reached.

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 authority be granted to transfer the Town Hall Car Park and Toilets, Boverton Road Car Park, Wine Street Car Park and Boverton Road Toilets, in Llantwit Major to Llantwit Major Town Council via 99-year leases in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer Guidance 2019-2023, for the operation and transfer of assets or services to Town and Community Councils in the Vale of Glamorgan.

(2) T H A T subject to Resolution (1), the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to agree terms and conditions for the 99-year leases to Llantwit Major Town Council for peppercorn rents and including covenants to maintain the existing assets for the same purpose.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare execute and complete all necessary documentation in connection with the transfer of the land to Llantwit Major Town Council.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow Llantwit Major Town Council to take responsibility for those lands and buildings to improve their operation and management for the benefit of the local community, whilst removing their cost burden to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(2) To grant the necessary authority to enter into the necessary lease arrangements with Llantwit Major Town Council on suitable terms.

(3) To legally formalise the appropriate lease arrangements and any other documents required.

C333 VALE OF GLAMORGAN REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RLDP) 2021-2036 – HOUSING GROWTH IN BARRY (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a public consultation exercise on potential sites for housing development in Barry as part of the evidence base for the Replacement Local Development Plan.

Councillor Sivagnanam said that as part of the consideration of the five key sites that were identified for allocation as part of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy it was important to consider the deliverability of those

sites as the RLDP should only allocate land that could realistically come forward for development and whether barriers to delivery could be overcome.

The nature of constraints differed on a site-by-site basis, but one of the considerations common to all sites was land ownership. Through negotiations with the site developers it had come to light that there were deliverability issues associated with the largest of the five sites in North East Barry concerning the ownership of land by several different landowners. Officers were of the opinion that there was not agreement amongst all parties that the site could be delivered and therefore could not be brought forward to deliver the number of units required to deliver a sustainable urban extension that delivered on the Council's Placemaking principles. It was therefore proposed that the site was no longer taken forward as an allocation within the Deposit for the RLDP.

It was therefore necessary to look at alternatives to replace that key site within Barry as the only key settlement in the RLDP settlement hierarchy that was the most sustainable location in the Vale due to its good public transport links, employment opportunities and wide range of services and facilities.

As part of the assessment process, three replacement sites have been identified to replace the North East Barry site deemed suitable for further consideration:

- Land at Weycock Cross (North West Barry).
- Land at Hayes Lane, The Bendricks.
- Land at Neptune Road, Barry Waterfront.

The report therefore sought approval to undertake a public consultation exercise on potential sites for housing development in Barry as part of the evidence base for the RLDP.

The Leader said there had been ongoing discussion to find appropriate sites to meet the housing need and looked forward to hearing the outcome of the public consultation.

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 document 'Housing Growth in Barry' attached to the report be approved and referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for its consideration, for public consultation purposes.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Sustainable Development and/or Director of Place to make typographical or other minor changes as necessary prior to public consultation.

(3) T H A T a further report be presented to Cabinet and considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Full Council to report the findings of the public consultation exercise, which would serve as part of the evidence base for the Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) before the Deposit Plan was reported.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable public consultation on potential RLDP allocations in the Barry area.
- (2) To make typographical or minor changes as necessary without the need to seek Cabinet approval.
- (3) To advise Members of the responses to the public consultation.

C334 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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.

C335 MIGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO CLOUD (EL/PR) EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPH 14 (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to provide Cabinet with the commercially sensitive details relating to the proposals in order to enable consideration of the Part I item on the agenda and to approve the approach for cloud-based computer and storage.

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 further to the Part I report, Cabinet approved Option 3, the hybrid Cloud solution approach, that being the preferred route forward, subject to confirmation of final discovery outcomes.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Digital, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, and the Director of Corporate Resources to carry out the procurement of a three-year licensing arrangement and to award the contract to the preferred supplier.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to execute the associated legal agreement.

Reasons for decisions

(1) The hybrid Cloud solution approach, Option 3, being the preferred route forward, to support the migration of the Council's compute and data to the Cloud, allows the Council to leverage both on-premise and Cloud resources, optimising performance while managing costs effectively due to its ability to balance cost efficiency, scalability, enhanced security, flexibility in alignment with the Council's digital and sustainability objectives.

(2) To ensure the procurement and associated processes were undertaken in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules, the selection of a preferred supplier and to award the contract to the preferred supplier.

(3) To enable the Council to enter into all necessary legal agreements to secure a three-year licence arrangement with the preferred supplier.