

## CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 16th April 2026.

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.

### **C257 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.

### **C258 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

### **C259 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **C260 TASK AND FINISH RESPONSE REPORT: LEISURE SERVICES (REF) –**

The reference from Live Well Scrutiny Committee dated 17th March 2026 was presented.

Task and Finish Working Group had explored barriers to participation for women in physical activity, especially within the 18 – 50 age category which had been an ongoing issue for a number of years with many contributory factors for drop-off rates of participation.

There were three primary and two secondary sets of Recommendations for Cabinet consideration that were listed on Pages 2 and 3 of the Scrutiny Committee report, with the secondary recommendations matters for the Live Well Scrutiny Committee itself, concerning:-

#### *Primary Recommendations –*

- 1. A digital accessibility and referral review is undertaken for the Council's already existing Sports Club webpage (see paragraph 2.17 of the Committee Report).*

2. *The current working processes to collate and publish information received within each aforementioned team be merged (see paragraph 2.18 of the Committee report).*
3. *A promotional exercise be undertaken in partnership with the Council's Communication Team, once the review of the Sports Club Webpage has been completed, via the following means:*
  - a) *Email post to the Council's Registered Consultation Group,*
  - b) *Press release via the Council's Latest News section of the Council's Website,*
  - c) *Social Media post via the Council's Facebook Channel,*
  - d) *A copy of this report and subsequent minutes from both the Live Well Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet be forwarded to Glamorgan Voluntary Services for information and passing on to Community Volunteers (see paragraph 2.19 of the Committee report).*

*Secondary Recommendations –*

1. *That the commentary set out in paragraph 2.21 be referred to the relevant Lead Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer for inclusion within the next round of Scrutiny Forward Work Programme reports (May 2026 cycle).*
2. *That the topics set out in paragraph 2.22 be referred to the Live Well Scrutiny Committee for discussion as potential Task and Finish topics in the future.*

The Leader said it was important that the recommended work be taken forward, but that barriers to participation in physical activity had been a challenge for some time for a number of groups. Cabinet, as the formal response to the Task and Finish work, agreed that the Recommendations from the Live Well Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be referred to relevant Officers for building into future work plans.

Councillor Wilson thanked all those who had taken part in the Task and Finish work which had also highlighted many of the positive Council activities such as the Golden Pass scheme. Participation in sport and leisure was vital in reducing the impact of social isolation and Leisure Centres provided a means to address that issue. The Leader said that the final set of Leisure Centre changing rooms were about to be renovated which would remove another barrier to participation.

Councillor John, who had participated in the Task and Finish work, said that Leisure Centres were better now than they had ever been and attendance had improved with usage taking place both day and night. Although the Task and Finish work had focussed on the 18-50 demographic, there was more to do to combat digital distractions amongst school-age pupils and Councillor John would speak to relevant Officers and the Education Department about the findings of the Task and Finish work in addressing more leisure opportunities for young people.

The Leader said that there were barriers that could prevent participation in leisure activities, including caring responsibilities and work-life balance. Academic research had been carried out on societal pressures versus participation in leisure activities and suggested the potential consideration of that at Scrutiny in the future.

RESOLVED – T H A T Live Well Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Working Group be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the Recommendations within the Task and Finish report be agreed and referred to relevant Officers for building into future work plans.

Reason for decision

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

**C261 TASK AND FINISH REVIEW ON COUNTERING MISINFORMATION (REF) –**

The reference from Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 26th March 2026 was presented.

Task and Finish Working Group had explored how misinformation and disinformation were spread within the Vale of Glamorgan, how they harmed communities, and how the Council could better respond. The Leader said it was a timely report as many people seemed unsure about what to believe on social media and messaging platforms given there was so much misinformation and deliberately incorrect information shared.

The Task and Finish Group made some quite wide-ranging recommendations to Cabinet for consideration which were detailed on Pages 2 and 3 of the Scrutiny Committee report and were considered and responded to by Cabinet as follows:-

*Build Internal Capacity and Resilience:*

1. *Schedule bespoke, Vale-specific training sessions for Elected Members around identifying and responding to misinformation.*

Training had been provided to Members from the Welsh Local Government Association on that topic and Members would continue to be provided with relevant training.

Councillor John had attended the training and encouraged all Members to take the course if they had not done so already.

2. *Create a toolkit for Elected Members on the topic of countering misinformation.*

Work was currently underway by the four Local Government Associations in the UK and Members had recently been invited to take part in a survey to assess the issue. The Vale of Glamorgan Council would therefore be playing an active part in the creation of that associated toolkit once it becomes available.

3. *Strengthen and promote opportunities for improved dialogue between Elected Members and Officers for the sharing of related information and advice.*

Work was ongoing on the issue. Members would be aware that factual information was able to be shared online internally quickly to combat any areas where accurate information was required or to clarify misinformation so that all Members were provided with correct information quickly.

The Leader referred to a recent example where information online suggested that the Council had only repaired 210 potholes, whereas the actual amount spent on such work was in the millions.

Councillor Wilson added that there was often misinformation concerning land ownership being public or private, and encouraged interested parties to research who owned land before issues were raised incorrectly. The Council was happy to assist in answering such questions in order to provide factual information to interested parties. He also encouraged current and prospective Members to ensure they were aware of what the Council was responsible for delivering in order to support residents.

4. *Establish internal support systems for Officers targeted by mis/disinformation.*

The Council already had detail on that issue as part of the Code of Conduct for Officer/Member relationships, but it would be reviewed to ensure it remained fit for purpose as Officers had been targeted as a result of online meetings.

*Engage the Community:*

5. *Explore offering media literacy workshops for residents to help them to identify false information and information threats and harms.*

The Leader said there were a growing number of online support avenues to ascertain what information was factual or correct and it would be useful piece of work for the Council to be able to signpost residents to trusted sources.

6. *Consider developing Information Community Champion advocates.*

The Leader said that further conversation would need to take place to ascertain how such a proposal could work and be taken forward.

*Taking the conversation offline:*

7. *Explore the potential and possibilities for holding in-person events involving Officers, Elected Members, partner organisations, community leaders and the public, to promote social cohesion and understanding among a variety of groups of residents.*

In years gone by there used to be events held in public, including Cabinet meetings in the community, and that would be looked into to see if there was any appetite to bring that back in future as a means of combating some of the anxiety over misinformation present in the community.

*Collaborate and Share:*

8. *Partner with like-minded organisations, for example Welsh Government, schools, public and third sector organisations, and local media to counter*

- information threats; and*
9. *Join relevant networks for examples of good practice and resources.*

The Council did partner with like-minded organisations to counter information threats but had also had to correct some organisations where information in the public domain had been incorrect or required clarification. Such work was ongoing. The Council was already part of relevant networks for examples of good practice and resources, including other Local Government Associations.

10. *Explore adopting shared monitoring tools with partners, to enhance awareness and understanding of pervasive and emerging media narratives.*

Once misinformation had made its way into the public domain it was difficult to combat but work was ongoing with partners to ensure correct information was being reported.

11. *Consider partnering with independent local media and influential community leaders through joint-working opportunities.*

Such partnerships were very relevant and already taking place.

*Advocate for Support:*

12. *Explore the possibilities for a variety of funding opportunities to support both resilience-building internally, and public-facing projects to counter misinformation; and*
13. *Seek legal clarity on Local Authorities' role in combating intentional disinformation.*

Discussions were ongoing with the Police, Police and Crime Commissioner and Public Service Ombudsman for Wales to ensure that regulations were fit for purpose.

*Review Progress and Build on Results:*

14. *That the Resources Scrutiny Committee receives an update presentation or report on any recommendations accepted and actioned, and any related work undertaken, in 12 months' time.*

This would be a matter for the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Committee further recommended that the topic of Mis and Disinformation, and the potential harms associated, be reflected in the Corporate Risk Register. Cabinet felt that was a matter for consideration when the Corporate Risk Register was next discussed.

Having considered the recommendations from the Task and Finish Working Group, Cabinet

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T Resources Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Working Group be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the recommendations

be agreed.

(2) T H A T the topic of Mis and Disinformation, and the potential harms associated being reflected in the Corporate Risk Register, be a matter for consideration when the Corporate Risk Register was next discussed.

Reason for decisions

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

**C262 DIRECTORATE PLANS 2026/27: YEAR 2 ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF VALE 2030 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Leader presented the report to seek Cabinet approval of the Directorate Plans 2026/27 which detailed each Directorate's planned in-year priority activities, performance measures and associated performance targets that would contribute to delivery of Vale 2030.

Councillor Wilson said the report demonstrated the volume of work that the Council was responsible for and highlighted the pressure that Officers were under having to be accountable for use of public funding. The Council was achieving and surpassing in some cases its own targets and benchmarking data in areas that were absolutely necessary for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. He praised the Planning Officers for determining around 96% of planning applications within eight weeks, given how complex some of those applications were. Councillor Wilson thanked the relevant Officers and Directors for the report.

The Leader said many of the services the Council provided would probably not be provided by private businesses as they would not be seen to be profitable.

Councillor John thanked the Director for Environment and Housing for his contribution to the report concerning Leisure Services and the new Performance Indicators. The Leader added reference to the work being undertaken as part of the new Street Scene programme also.

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 views and recommendations from Scrutiny Committees (detailed in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.40 of the report) following their review of all five Directorate Plans (Appendix A) be noted.

(2) T H A T, subject to Resolution (1), the activities, performance measures and associated targets detailed within Directorate Plans 2026/2027 (Appendix A) as the key means through which performance against Vale 2030 would be monitored and measured during 2026/27 be approved.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that the views and recommendations following scrutiny of the five Directorate Plans 2026/27 were incorporated as appropriate.

(2) To establish the Directorate Plans 2026/27 as the core framework through which progress against Vale 2030 commitments would be monitored and measured during 2026/27.

### **C263 CABINET QUARTERLY REPORT – REPORTING MINUTES OF JOINT COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES WHERE THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Leader presented the report to provide a quarterly update for all Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council concerning meetings of Joint Committees and Committees where the Vale of Glamorgan Council was an active participant from January to March 2026.

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory Group had looked at issues including litter, poor behaviour and overnight stays. There was also discussion on opportunities such as a potential new café area and proposals for guided walks.

It was noted that there was a typographical error in the Executive Summary and clarified that the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting had been held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Councillor Williams added that the Corporate Parenting Panel had looked at the Pupil Development Grant again at its latest meeting and further changes had been made in its determination by the Vale of Glamorgan Council which would be recorded in the next minutes to be considered by Cabinet.

Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Joint Committee had said farewell to the Head of SRS of many years and that a new appointment had been undertaken. Committee had looked at an Overview and Update on Shared Regulatory Services as well as a number of budgetary matters.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee had discussed a variety of matters, including membership of the Committee being prescribed in legislation, a Navigational Safety and General Progress Report, an update from Natural Resources Wales and a presentation in relation to Waterfront Partners.

In discussing the well-attended Joint Consultative Forum, Councillor Perkes said it had been an interesting meeting that discussed Staff Network updates, including collaborative work with GLAM and Cardiff Council's sister network, the Draft Social

Partnership Duty annual report for 2024/25 and its four objectives and there had been a presentation on the Local Government Pension Scheme.

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 minutes concerning meetings of Joint Committees and Committees where the Vale of Glamorgan Council was an active participant from January to March 2026 be noted.

Reason for decision

To present to Cabinet a report on a quarterly basis which would provide an overview of all the Joint Committee Meetings of which the Vale of Glamorgan Council was a formal member and links to the respective minutes.

**C264 CABINET ANNUAL STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME MAY 2026 TO APRIL 2027 AND CABINET QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAMMES – JANUARY TO MARCH 2027 AND APRIL TO JUNE 2027 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Leader presented the report to inform Members of the Annual Strategic Forward Work Programme of the Cabinet / Council for the period May 2026 to April 2027 and to inform Members of the progress to date in respect of Cabinet Quarterly Work Programmes for the periods January to March 2026 and April to June 2026.

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 Cabinet approves the Annual Strategic Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 for the period May 2026 to April 2027 be approved was to be published on the Council's website.

(2) T H A T the updates to the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programmes for January to March 2026 and April to June 2026 attached at Appendices 2 and 3 be endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, subordinate legislation and the Council's Constitution in setting annual work programmes.

(2) To monitor progress.

**C265 LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN WALES – VALE OF GLAMORGAN (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)**

The Leader presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to accept and deliver Year 1 (2026/27) of the Local Growth Fund in Wales programme in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Acceptance of the Recommendations by Cabinet would enable the Council to begin project mobilisation in line with the Local Growth Fund Investment Plan's objectives for Wales, prioritising business competitiveness and Research and Development, skills and employment and strategic infrastructure.

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 Vale of Glamorgan's 2026/27 Local Growth Fund in Wales allocation up to £4.2m (currently estimated to be £3,630,560) be accepted.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to approve the use of Local Growth Fund for internal and externally commissioned projects.
- (3) T H A T the Director of Place (in consultation with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) be authorised to negotiate terms and conditions for the appointment of third-party suppliers/providers for internal and externally commissioned projects, as necessary.
- (4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to submit and take all necessary actions to finalise a year 1 delivery plan with the Lead Body (Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council) (RCTCBC), linked to the Local Growth Fund funding allocation on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- (5) T H A T in pursuance of Resolution (3), the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services (in consultation with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer) be authorised to prepare, complete, and execute the required legal documentation to enable third-party suppliers/providers to be appointed for internal and externally commissioned projects, where necessary.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to approve any changes to governance and resources structures to assess and determine applications from third parties to use the Local Growth Fund in Wales Allocation.

(7) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete, and execute the required legal documentation with third party grant applicants.

(8) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to undertake all necessary actions to agree the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the Lead Body (RCTCBC) for the Local Growth Fund in Wales allocation.

(9) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, and Director of Place) to approve additions, deletions, or transfers to or from the Capital Programme for the Local Growth Fund in Wales where required.

(10) T H A T the ongoing use of the current governance structures in place for the delivery of the Shared Prosperity Fund be authorised. The Shared Prosperity Fund panel would be renamed the Local Growth Fund panel and would have oversight of the 1-year programme.

(11) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be approved to enable the timely commencement of the Local Growth Fund in Wales programme for 2026/27.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide continuity between Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Growth Fund programmes, as directed by Welsh Government, by utilising existing delivery structures during the transition year.

(2) To obtain authority to approve the use of the Local Growth Fund in Wales allocation for internal and externally commissioned projects.

(3) To obtain authority to appoint third-party suppliers/providers for internal and externally commissioned projects, where necessary.

(4) To enable the approval of the 2026/27 Delivery Plan.

(5) To obtain authority to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable third-party suppliers/providers to be appointed for internal and externally commissioned projects.

- (6) To obtain authority to approve governance and resources structures to assess and determine applications from third parties to use the Local Growth Fund in Wales allocation.
- (7) To obtain authority to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation with third party grant applicants.
- (8) To obtain authority to negotiate, complete and execute the Service Level Agreement for the Local Growth Fund in Wales allocation for the Vale of Glamorgan with the Lead Body (RCTCBC).
- (9) To obtain authority for the funding to be included within the Capital Programme 2026/27 and maximise the Council's ability to utilise the sum allocated in the best possible manner.
- (10) To allow efficient operational management and compliance with funding conditions.
- (11) To enable the timely commencement of the Local Growth Fund in Wales programme for 2026/27.

**C266 HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT DELIVERY PLAN 2026-2029 AND ANNUAL SPEND PLAN 2026-27 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to approve the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2026 – 2029 and Annual Spend Plan 2026-27 prior to submission to Welsh Government.

Councillor Perkes said the report set out the Vale of Glamorgan Council Plan and financial spend for the Grant for 2026/27, having received a 3% uplift to the Grant which would be £5,971,179. The Housing Support Grant was essential in assisting the Local Authority to fulfil its duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, supporting vulnerable people with various issues including assistance for those with complex needs or help tenants to maintain tenancies.

The Leader added that residents of the Vale of Glamorgan had a huge range of needs and sometimes needed support to sustain a tenancy, required adaptations to a property or just needed help, support or financial advice. A 3% uplift to the Grant as welcomed and would be accessible by the Supported People Programme via Pobl or the Council's own drop-in service at the Pod where support on a range of issues such as housing and benefits advice or employment was available.

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 Cabinet noted that the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2026-2029 and Annual Spend Plan 2026-2027 were considered and endorsed by the Live Well Scrutiny Committee on 17th March 2026, with no recommendations or suggestions for change put forward.

(2) T H A T the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2026-2029 and Annual Spend Plan 2026-2027 be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide Live Well Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment on the draft HSG plans, prior to a Cabinet decision.

(2) To ensure that the Council complied with the requirements of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Guidance (Wales).