CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 24th September 2026.

The meeting papers are available here.

The recording of the meeting is available here.

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

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

Also Present: Councillor N.C. Thomas.

C56 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.

C57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors B.E. Brooks and S.D. Perkes.

C58 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2026 be approved as a correct record.

C59 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Place Scrutiny Committee dated 14th July 2026 was presented.

The Leader said the report considered by the Committee was substantial and that the matter had evolved since the Climate and Nature Emergency Motions had been discussed and agreed at Full Council. Pages 4 and 5 of the main report detailed 18 challenges, including demonstrating strong leadership, fulfilling the Council's responsibility to current and future generations making a difference now and performance measures.

Committee had noted the report, referred some actions to relevant Officers for action of consideration and referred comments for Cabinet to consider concerning:-

- The Council should ensure that funding is secured to monitor and control carbon footprint at the construction stage of any new schools and other major development work to ensure they are energy efficient;
- That the Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) should prioritise investment in public transport and active travel to reduce reliance on motor vehicles;
- That steps should be taken to enable the Council to maximise the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels at schools.

The Leader said that all of the comments referred to matters that were already being progressed within the Council.

Cabinet also thanked the wide range of Officers across the Council who were working within the Project Zero agenda and producing excellent results.

Councillor Wilson referred to 'Project Zero: Challenge 10' which was detailed on Page 20 of the report and the successful pilot of the soft plastics collection service, largely thanks to the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and relevant Officers. Arrangements had also been made with Schools to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Place Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter.

(2) T H A T Cabinet noted the comments of the Committee which referred to matters that were already being progressed within the Council.

Reason for decisions

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

C60 AUDIT WALES: REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee dated 20th July 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that there had been some interesting comments made at the meeting, noting that the Council had recently taken steps to strengthen its scrutiny arrangements, the effectiveness of which were yet to be assessed, but also there was a need to strengthen understanding of scrutiny roles and responsibilities. More Task and Finish working had been introduced to dive deeper into certain issues.

Committee referred the report back to Cabinet for oversight and endorsement of the proposed Council actions (Appendix B to the report) to address the recommendations.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter, that the report be noted and that the proposed Council actions (Appendix B to the report) to address the recommendations be endorsed.

Reason for decision

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

C61 AUDIT WALES: THE BUILDING BLOCKS? CAPITAL PLANNING IN COUNCILS IN WALES (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee dated 20th July 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that Committee had noted the report and referred the report to Cabinet for its oversight and endorsement of the proposed Council actions (Appendix B) to address the recommendations.

Section 3 of the report referred to the findings of the Audit Wales review, with the key findings listed in paragraph 3.2 to the report. The Project Management Unit had been developed which included a number of skilled managers who worked across Directorates and assisted the Council to be more effective to deliver projects.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter, that the report be noted and that the proposed Council actions (Appendix B to the report) to address the recommendations be endorsed.

Reason for decision

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

C62 DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2025/26 (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee dated 20th July 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that the Council was required to undertake an annual review of internal control and governance, which was discussed at the Committee meeting.

The Committee also requested for the report produced on partnership working between the Council and Town and Community Councils to be made available to Members of the Governance and Audit Committee, which would be disseminated by Democratic Services.

Committee had a significant discussion regarding the possible introduction of a cross-party budget working group and, alongside comments and areas for improvement (for 2026/27) for consideration by Officers for inclusion into the Draft

Annual Government Statement 2025/26, Committee subsequently requested Cabinet to consider the introduction of a Budget Working Group to allow Elected Members to delve deeper into budgetary and saving proposals. The Leader said that the formation of such a Budget Working Group was already in development and being progressed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter, that the report be noted and that it be noted that the introduction of a Budget Working Group was already being progressed.

Reason for decision

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

C63 UPDATE REPORT: RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (REF) –

The reference from Place Scrutiny Committee dated 22nd September 2026 was presented.

Councillor Wilson said it had been a positive meeting, and Committee had discussed the proposed changes to the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy. The Vale of Glamorgan Council was one of the most successful recycling Authorities in the UK with a 73% recycling rate, thanks to the relevant Officers and residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Further improvements and enhancements were being made to the recycling service, including the extension of the successful textile recycling trial as a permanent change across the Vale of Glamorgan and as a weekly collection from November, and the introduction of a weekly Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service on an initial trial basis across Barry, finishing in early 2027 with a view to extend if found to be successful.

Subject to planning and funding arrangements, it was also proposed to move Council fleet vehicles from The Alps to a site adjacent Atlantic Trading Estate, reducing the mileage that vehicles travel and associated carbon emissions. Any such proposal would be subject to the receipt of the necessary planning permissions, statutory approvals and funding arrangements.

Committee noted the progress made in delivering the Strategy and endorsed the updated Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) Action Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report. They also referred to Cabinet specific Recommendations 2.4 to 2.8 of the report, requesting that the wording of Recommendation 2.8 be changed to:

"That Cabinet considers the construction of the proposed fleet parking facility at Atlantic Trading Estate and authorises the works to commence for phase one of the scheme subject to the receipt of the necessary planning permissions, statutory approvals and funding arrangements. That Cabinet also recognises that in order to

maximise the productivity and efficiency benefits realised by Phase 1 that capital funding of approximately £1.2m would be required to take Phase 2 forward and that Cabinet should consider this when considering the proposal concerning Phase 1."

The Leader said that it was not possible to decide to allocate funding at this stage whilst in the middle of the budget setting process for next year. It was also not wise to allocate funding to a scheme that was still subject to planning approvals. The report showed a direction of travel and once all the necessary permissions were in place, it may be that funding became available from other alternative sources also. As such, the proposal would form part of the discussion under the budget setting process and would be considered against other Council priorities.

Councillor John said the presentation at the Committee meeting was excellent and the services provided to the public tremendous, and although the direction of travel was laid out in the report, it was prudent to consider the proposal alongside other Council priorities.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Place Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and the relevant Cabinet Recommendations from the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T any proposals for funding concerning Recommendation 2.8 of the report be considered alongside other Council priorities as part of the ongoing budget setting processes and subject to the receipt of the necessary planning permissions, statutory approvals and funding arrangements.

Reason for decisions

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

C64 CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2026/27 - 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2026 (EL/PR) (RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to provide an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the first Quarter 2026/27 covering the period 1st April 2026 to 30th June 2026. Details by scheme were shown in Appendix 1, which also noted schemes over £250k and provided a Red/Amber/Green rating to indicate levels of risk.

The Capital Programme was ambitious, including the completion of specialist education provision at Ysgol Llyn Derw and a former office building called Cadoxton House in Barry transformed into modern, energy efficient one-bedroomed apartments for people at risk of homelessness.

Slippage for a variety of reasons was included in paragraphs 4.42 to 4.61 of the report with most either moved to later in the year or into the following year.

Councillor John referred to the All Wales Play Opportunities Welsh Government grant that had funded the Palmerston play area in Barry which evidenced the work completed by the Play Team, creating an inclusive and stimulating environment for disabled children. The Leader added that the Play Team had put on several successful events over the summer period.

Councillor Wilson referred to the ongoing Slope Stabilisation Works at Penarth Marina which was progressing well, as well as work beginning on the replacement of street lighting columns and work to the Dingle Road Station footbridge.

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 2026/27 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 to the report be noted.

(4) T H A T the changes detailed in paragraphs 4.16 to 4.61 to the 2026/27 Capital Programme and future years' Capital Programme be approved.

(5) T HA T the current leasing position in relation to IFRS16 be noted.

(6) T H A T the report be referred to Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration and for any recommendations from the Committee to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

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.

(5) To advise Cabinet of the position on IFRS16.

(6) To advise Resources Scrutiny Committee of the progress of the 2026/27 Capital Programme.

C65 QUARTER 1 REVENUE MONITORING 2026/27 (EL/PR) (RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to advise Cabinet of the Quarter 1 Revenue Monitoring position for 2026/27 which continued to be a significant financial challenge faced by the Council for 2026/27 even at Quarter 1 with a net corporate overspend of £2.872m and a further £4m schools deficit.

Schools were working constructively with the Council, largely controlling current year spend as well as any historic deficits. Education and Adult Social Services were the main areas of pressure, alongside Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transport with a £644k projected overspend.

Demand pressures existed with ALN and homelessness although some Welsh Government grant funding had been made available for those issues. Positive developments across the Council included investment in prevention and accommodation services, with the Council benefitting from higher investment income and lower borrowing costs.

The financial position in schools was a Wales-wide concern, with schools forecasting an overall cumulative deficit of £14.9m by the end of March 2027.

The Council did have a savings programme of £2.7m in place, and it was forecast to achieve or mitigate 90% of that amount.

Senior Leadership Team had implemented a series of in-year budget control measures including reinforced budget monitoring restrictions for non-essential expenditure, use of external consultancy and maximising available grant spend.

The situation was discussed in recent Start Well and Resources Scrutiny Committee meetings and the Leader committed to forward an independently verified report on the ALN consequentials by the Welsh Local Government Association, as well as a letter from the Leaders of all parties to the Minister, to Scrutiny Members for information.

Quarter 1 highlighted sustained demand-led pressures in Social Care, Education and transport services with continued financial discipline and mitigation measures in place to reduce the forecast overspend and to protect the Council's reserves.

Councillor Williams said that although there was often a headline about Social Services overspend, it was important to recognise that the Vale of Glamorgan had an older demographic. Appendix 4 to the report showed the Service Areas were making savings, with nearly 70% of those projected to be met. He looked forward to the constructive discussion at Scrutiny.

The Leader said it was important to remember that Social Services provided services to the most vulnerable people, and initiatives such as the advances in hospital discharge arrangements were beneficial to families but came at a cost.

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 financial measures taken and proposed be approved.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to Resources Scrutiny Committee for its consideration and for any recommendations from the Committee to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.

(2) To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the Quarter 1 position.

C66 QUARTER 1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2026/27 (EL/PR) (RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report which set out the Treasury Management position against a number of key Treasury and Prudential Indicators as at 30th June 2026 with updated prudential and treasury indicators set out at Appendix A including estimates for other long term liabilities as part of the IFRS16 leasing standard.

The report detailed changes in the Capital Programme since last reported to Cabinet and also updated the prudential indicators to reflect those changes. All changes were within the limits as set out in the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

A significant issue highlighted in the report was the continued reduction of available reserves and balances used to support internal borrowing which would usually avoid additional external borrowing costs, but such resources were largely depleted. As such, the Capital Programme was increasingly financed through fixed-rate external borrowing via the Public Works Loan Board at a more reasonable cost to the Authority and which provided certainty over future financing costs.

While borrowing rates remained high, the Council used shorter terms loans to allow a more flexible approach over the shorter and medium term. There was no new borrowing undertaken in Quarter 1, but more borrowing was expected in Quarter 2.

As of the end of June, the Council held total external borrowing of £178.46m, compared to £181.87m at the end of March 2026 which reflected normal loan repayments at the end of the Quarter.

In terms of investment performance, investment balances increased during the Quarter mainly due to timing of income and expenditure flows.

Total investments increased from just over £37m up to £56.6m by the end of June, with distributed investments across a range of low-risk counterparties. The average rate of return was approximately 4.1%.

The report noted that current forecasts indicated that the Housing Revenue Account financing cost ratio may exceed target levels in future years, not the current year, and the position would be reviewed as part of the Housing Improvement Programme for 2027/28.

In terms of the economic environment, there continued to be instability in the Middle East, inflation remained above the Bank of England's 2% target, and the bank rate was being maintained at 3.75%. There was also uncertainly about future interest rate movements and market volatility in bonds and financial markets. The Council's Treasury Advisors would continue to monitor the market and provide advice and support borrowing investment decisions going forward.

Councillor Wilson referred to Table 1 on Capital expenditure by service in the report, which showed the ambition of the Council. Continuation of investment in capital would also in turn reduce revenue spending. The previous Welsh Government provided additional grant funding to the Authority, and the Council would continue to lobby the new Wesh Government for support going forward in order to make improvements for the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and reduce the liability of Council Tax payers.

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 Quarter 1 Monitoring report for Treasury Management 2026/27 be accepted and that the report be referred to Governance and Audit Committee for review, with any Recommendations referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the monitoring position for Treasury Management as at 30th June 2026 and to inform Governance and Audit Committee of the position in respect of Treasury Management.

C67 ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (EL/PR) (NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to allow for the Council to be represented at Joint Council for Wales: Employees side in line with their revised constitutional arrangements.

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 Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources be appointed to the Joint Council for Wales (Employee side), with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places as substitute appointment.

(2) T H A T the appointment of the following Member representatives as part of the Shaping our Well-being Collaborative (Cardiff and Vale University Health Board) be endorsed:

Councillor Samantha Campbell (Central cluster)
Councillor Marianne Cowpe (Eastern cluster)
Councillor Neil Thomas (Eastern cluster)

Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow for the Council to be represented at Joint Council for Wales: Employees side in line with their revised constitutional arrangements.

(2) To allow for the Council to be represented as part of the Shaping our Well-being Collaborative.

C68 BARRY MAKING WAVES - UPDATE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026 (EL/PR) (NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to provide an update on the Mole and the Dock Office projects. Those projects were being funded via the UK Levelling Up Grant Fund.

With regards The Mole, and since publication of the report, Officers had continued constructive discussions with Associated British Ports regarding the land arrangements required to deliver the project. While a number of matters remained subject to negotiation and no final terms had been agreed, the Council remained committed to working with partners to secure a deliverable solution and progress the scheme. Further updates would be provided as discussions advance.

Paragraph 4.29 detailed the timescales for the programme which would be reviewed and refined as the project progressed, with a lot of Barry residents interested in the construction of the Education and Watersports Activity Centre set for completion by March 2028.

The Leader moved a second Recommendation to the report concerning wanting to thank the Project Management Unit for their work within competing priorities in order to progress the report and the arrangements and progress being made in respect of the Barry Making Waves projects, which was agreed.

Councillor Wilson said the report showed the Authority's ambition for Barry as Wales' largest Town by population, and that the projects would be delivered alongside the Authority's partners and stakeholders.

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 arrangements and progress being made in respect of the Barry Making Waves projects be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the Project Management Unit be thanked for their work within competing priorities in order to progress the report and the arrangements and progress being made in respect of the Barry Making Waves projects.

Reason for decisions

(1-2) To apprise Cabinet of the current position regarding the projects and funding from UK Government.

C69 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN ELECTORAL AREA (EL/PR) (RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to inform Cabinet of the start of a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within the Vale of Glamorgan electoral area ahead of the Local Government Elections on 6th May 2027.

Councillor Wilson said the report was important to the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan as well as political candidates for May 2027 as polling stations had to be accessible. He encouraged residents to make their representations known, to try and include polling stations within their respective wards, and whether there were other sites that could be considered as polling stations and which avoided the use of schools which caused disruption to education.

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 proposed timetable for the review as detailed in Appendix A to the report be agreed.

Reason for decision

To note the content of the report in relation to the review and timeline.

C70 SULLY TO COSMESTON ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE (DL/SP) (PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Leader to update Cabinet on the development of the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route, outline progress to date, and sought approval for delegated powers and funding arrangements to progress delivery.

The Council recognised the benefits of physical activity and being out in the open air and the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel route would encourage walking, cycling and wheeling along a 2.5km footway/cycleway link.

Paragraph 3.5 of the report detailed the progress that had been made from the Welsh Government Core Active Travel funding and the land transfer from Welsh Government was scheduled to commence in 2026.

Structures along the route were currently owned by National Highways and it would be necessary for the Council to take those over and four upgrade options had been developed which were detailed in Paragraph 4.3 of the report.

The route from Sully to Cosmeston was one of the most requested Active Travel routes in the Vale of Glamorgan, with the possibility to then link to the Taff Trail all the way to Brecon.

Section 6 to the report detailed the next steps and Section 9 looked at the scheme finding to date.

Councillor Wilson referred to Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 to the report, where the scheme would provide an important link to the existing Railway Walk route between Cosmeston Drive and Plymouth Road/Penarth Railway Station as well as provide a continuous and safe active travel route providing opportunities for pupils to walk, wheel or cycle to Stanwell School and reduce traffic pressure in the area. There would be a one-off capital cost that would benefit future generations.

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 progress on design, statutory approvals, and preparatory work for the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route be noted.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer to proceed with funding applications, land transfer arrangements, procurement of required professional services and contractors required for the scheme subject to confirmed funding, all necessary statutory approvals and compliance with the Council's Constitution and Contract Procedure Rules.

(3) T H A T the submission of external funding bids to the Regional Transport Authority to secure delivery funding for the scheme be endorsed.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Head of Neighbourhood Services to enter into and progress licences for access to third-party land where required, to enable the undertaking of surveys necessary for the development of the scheme.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services to undertake the procurement and award of contracts for the scheme, subject to confirmed funding and budget provision, receipt of the necessary statutory approvals, satisfactory land and structures arrangements, and compliance with procurement legislation and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to approve the final legal documentation and complete or execute the contracts following the relevant contract award decision.

(7) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Deputy Lead and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, and Head of Finance/ Operational Manager Financial Services and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into a transfer agreement with Welsh Government for the land (Indicated in Appendix C to the report) required for construction for the scheme, whether by financial consideration or other mutually agreed means.

(8) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete all necessary legal documentation associated with and ancillary to the transfer of land.

(9) T H A T the additional work recommended within Appendix B to the report to be undertaken on the structures along the route to determine current condition be approved.

(10) T H A T following satisfactory structural investigations, delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the

Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to agree the terms upon which ownership of, responsibility for, and use of the structures may transfer to the Council from the relevant legal owner, working with National Highways as manager of the Historical Railways Estate where applicable. Any transfer shall be subject to satisfactory confirmation of title and terms relating to the condition and extent of the structures, remedial works, existing and future liabilities, access and maintenance rights, funding and an appropriate commuted sum.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the progress on design development, statutory approvals, and preparatory work for the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route, ensuring transparency and oversight of this strategic infrastructure project.

(2) To enable timely delivery of the scheme by granting delegated authority for land transfer, tender preparation, and funding applications. That approach avoids delays that could arise from returning to Cabinet for each operational decision.

(3) To secure external funding opportunities from the Regional Transport Authority, reducing reliance on Council resources and supporting the Council's commitment to sustainable transport and active travel objectives.

(4) To enable the timely completion of surveys required to inform the design and development of the scheme. Providing delegated authority would allow the Council to secure access to third-party land without unnecessary delay, ensuring the project could progress in accordance with planned timescales and supporting the efficient delivery of the scheme.

(5) To enable the timely progression of the construction tender for the scheme. That approach ensured the project could advance without delay, maintained continuity in delivery, and allowed procurement activity to be managed efficiently within established operational and governance frameworks. It also supported the Council's commitment to delivering the scheme within planned timescales and budget parameters by allowing necessary decisions to be taken promptly as the project developed.

(6) To allow efficient progression to construction by delegating authority to enter into the appropriate contract for the construction of the scheme. That ensured compliance with procurement regulations and accelerates project delivery.

(7) To facilitate completion of the walking, wheeling and cycling route by authorising transfer of land as detailed in Appendix C, ensuring that all necessary land was secured for the full implementation of the route.

(8) To ensure that all legal documentation required for the land transfer was completed efficiently and in accordance with statutory, regulatory, and governance requirements. That delegation enabled the necessary legal processes to progress without delay, supported timely delivery of the project, and ensured that all agreements, contracts, and associated documents were executed correctly to protect the Council's legal and financial interests.

(9) To provide the Council with a robust understanding of the condition of the structures along the route, enabling informed decisions on future maintenance, asset management, and funding requirements.

(10) To allow the Council to take an informed decision regarding taking ownership and responsibility of the structures and provide a mechanism by which that could be done, if deemed appropriate.

C71 BIGLIS TO DINAS POWYS ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (DL/SP) (PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Leader to update Cabinet on the development of the Biglis to Dinas Powys Active Travel Route and sought approval for further delegations to move forward with a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process to progress delivery, in the interests of the public.

Councillor John said the area was on a very busy road, and the Active Travel route would make it much safer to use.

Councillor Wilson said the Active Travel route would give people better alternatives for travel and provided more accessible routes for people to travel.

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 decision taken at Full Council on 9th March 2026, Cabinet recommends that Full Council, having considered the matters set out in the report, makes a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled The Vale of Glamorgan Biglis to Dinas Powys Active Travel Route Compulsory Purchase Order 2026, pursuant to Sections 239, 240, 246, 250 and 260 of the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, for the acquisition of the land shown in Appendices A-E and for the creation and acquisition of new rights over that land, insofar as necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Biglis to Dinas Powys Active Travel Route.

(2) T H A T Cabinet recommends Full Council approve delegated authority be given to the Director of Environment and Housing and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to:

(a) Take all steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) including the publication and service of all notices and the promotion of the Council's case at any public inquiry, including but not limited to the steps in (b) to (h) below;

(b) To make any amendments, deletions or additions to the draft Order Maps and/or draft schedules to the Orders so as to include and describe all interests in land and rights required to facilitate the carrying out of the Scheme;

(c) To acquire interests and new rights in the Order Land either by agreement or compulsorily (including pursuant to any blight notices as appropriate) including conduct of negotiations, making provision for the payment of compensation and where appropriate, provision for temporary and/or permanent relocation of affected parties and/or for cases of exceptional hardship;

(d) To negotiate, agree terms and enter into agreements with interested parties including agreements for the withdrawal of blight notices and/or the withdrawal of objections to the Order and/or undertakings not to enforce the Order on specified terms, including where appropriate seeking the exclusion of land or rights from the Order, making provision for the payment of compensation and/or for relocation;

(e) In the event that the Order is confirmed by the Welsh Ministers, to advertise and give notice of confirmation and thereafter to take all steps to implement the Order including, to execute General Vesting Declarations and/or to serve Notices to Treat and Notices of Entry in respect of interests and rights in the Order Land;

(f) To take all steps in relation to any legal proceedings relating to the Order including defending or settling claims referred to the Lands Tribunal (Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal) and/or applications made to the Courts and any appeals; and

(g) To retain and/or appoint external professional advisers and consultants to assist in facilitating the promotion, confirmation and implementation of the Order, the settlement of compensation and any other claims or disputes; and

(h) To appoint external valuers to assist in dealing with the land acquisition process and land valuation issues relating to the Order and any resultant claims for compensation.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide authority for the Compulsory Purchase Order required to acquire land for delivery of the Biglis to Dinas Powys active travel route.

(2) To delegate authority to Officers to take forward the processes involved in taking forward the Compulsory Purchase Order.

C72 EASTERN GATEWAY PROJECT (DL/SP) (PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Leader to provide Cabinet with an update on the Eastern Gateway site, its ownership, current status and

strategic importance as a key gateway location into Barry.

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 current position in relation to the Eastern Gateway Project be noted and the proposed project objectives (Appendix A – Eastern Gateway project objectives part I) and strategic direction for the future development of the site be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the proposed governance arrangements for the Eastern Gateway Project, as set out in Appendix B (Eastern Gateway Project Governance and Team Structure), be endorsed, including the Director and Chief Officer delegations necessary to facilitate the effective management and delivery of the project, with delegated authority granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete, execute and seal all contracts, licences, agreements and associated legal documentation required to progress and deliver the project.

(3) 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, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to submit applications for external funding and to accept grant funding where the associated terms and conditions were acceptable to the Council.

(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, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to procure and appoint contractors, consultants and suppliers as may be required to progress and deliver the project, subject to the availability of funding.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, in liaison with the Chief Executive and Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer to accept the preferred tender(s) and approve the award of works contract(s) associated with the project, following the completion of the procurement process.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to direct

award contracts where appropriate and permissible under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and applicable procurement legislation.

(7) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, to submit planning applications, building regulations applications and any other statutory approvals, licences, permits, consents or regulatory submissions required in connection with the Eastern Gateway Project, including applications made under Regulation 3 or Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (as amended), where required.

(8) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, to enter licences, access agreements and any other necessary arrangements with landowners to facilitate surveys, site investigations, ground investigations and other preliminary works required to support the development of the project.

(9) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to prepare, approve and submit business cases, funding applications and supporting documentation required to progress the Eastern Gateway Project.

(10) 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, Director of Place and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to approve additions, deletions or transfers to or from the Capital Programme.

(11) T H A T further detail, contents and recommendations are approved as set out in the Part II Cabinet Report.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide a clear strategic framework for the development of the site and ensure alignment with the Council’s regeneration, placemaking and corporate objectives.

(2) To ensure the effective governance and delivery of the Eastern Gateway Project through appropriate project management, oversight, decision-making and legal processes, in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements and statutory requirements.

(3) To maximise opportunities to secure external investment and enable the timely progression of the project.

(4) To enable project delivery activities to progress efficiently and in accordance with the Council's procurement requirements.

(5) To enable contracts to be awarded in a timely manner and support efficient project delivery.

(6) To provide flexibility in project delivery where specialist services or time-critical requirements make a direct award the most appropriate route to procurement.

(7) To enable the Council to secure all necessary statutory approvals, consents and regulatory permissions required to progress the project and facilitate its timely delivery.

(8) To enable the Council to undertake the necessary due diligence, surveys and technical investigations required to inform design, feasibility and project development.

(9) To enable the timely development of project proposals and the submission of funding opportunities as they arise.

(10) To enable the Council to reflect the capital budget accordingly in its financial systems.

(11) To consider the commercially confidential information under Section 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the Part II Report and agree recommendations therein.

C73 DRAFT EMPTY PROPERTY STRATEGY 2026-2030 (DL/SP / CEERS) (PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report on behalf of the Deputy Leader to provide Cabinet with an update on the development of the Vale of Glamorgan Empty Property Strategy 2026–2030. The Strategy had been developed to establish a clear framework for addressing the issue of long-term empty properties across the Vale of Glamorgan and to set out the Council's approach to reducing the number of vacant properties over the next five years. It reflected national housing priorities, local housing need and the Council's wider commitments to regeneration, community wellbeing and sustainable development.

Councillor Wilson said it was important to maximise the number of available properties for beneficial occupation and reduce the number of empty homes in the area in order to benefit those on the housing waiting list. It was also important to work with landlords in partnership to utilise those empty properties.

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.

(2) T H A T the Empty Property Strategy 2026–2030 be approved.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place to implement the Strategy and Action Plan.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to approve future amendments.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) To formally adopt the Strategy as the Council's framework for tackling empty properties and increasing housing supply.

(3) To ensure effective delivery and coordination across Council services and partners.

(4) To allow the Strategy to remain current and responsive to changing policy, funding and delivery requirements.

C74 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.

C75 EASTERN GATEWAY PROJECT (DL/SP) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 3.2, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.16, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 6.1, 9.1, 9.2, 10.2, 10.3, 11.5 AND 11.6) (PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to provide Cabinet with an update on the Eastern Gateway site, its ownership, current status and strategic importance as a key gateway location into Barry.

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 current position in relation to the Eastern Gateway Project be noted and the proposed project objectives (Appendix A – Eastern Gateway project objectives part II) and strategic direction for the future development of the site be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the proposed governance arrangements for the Eastern Gateway Project, including the Director and Chief Officer delegations requested within this report to facilitate the effective management and delivery of the project be endorsed (Appendix B to the associated Part I report – Eastern Gateway Project Governance and Team Structure).

(3) 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, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to submit applications for external funding and to accept grant funding where the associated terms and conditions were acceptable to the Council.

(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, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to procure and appoint contractors, consultants and suppliers as may be required to progress and deliver the project, subject to the availability of funding.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, in liaison with the Chief Executive and Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer to accept the preferred tender(s) and approve the award of works contract(s) associated with the project, following the completion of the procurement process.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to direct award contracts where appropriate and permissible under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and applicable procurement legislation.

(7) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, to submit planning applications, building regulations applications and any other statutory approvals, licences, permits, consents or regulatory submissions required in connection with the Eastern Gateway Project, including applications made under Regulation 3 or Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (as amended), where required.

(8) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, to enter licences, access agreements and any other necessary arrangements with landowners to facilitate surveys, site investigations, ground investigations and other preliminary works required to support the development of the project.

(9) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete, execute and seal all contracts, licences, agreements and associated legal documentation on required to progress and deliver the Eastern Gateway Project.

(10) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to prepare, approve and submit business cases, funding applications and supporting documentation required to progress the Eastern Gateway Project.

(11) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Landlord, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to negotiate terms for and complete the acquisition of Sites C and D, together with any associated rights, easements or interests required to facilitate the delivery of the Eastern Gateway Project, subject to funding being secured.

(12) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to, complete, execute and seal all deeds, contracts, transfers, easements, licences and other legal documentation necessary to facilitate the acquisition of land and property interests required for the Eastern Gateway Project.

(13) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to, complete, execute and seal all deeds, contracts, transfers, easements, licences and other legal documentation necessary to facilitate the acquisition of land and property interests required for the Eastern Gateway Project.

(14) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Director of Place, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, Head of Corporate Landlord and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to negotiate and agree the terms and consideration for the acquisition of Sites C and D and any associated land interests required for the Eastern Gateway Project, subject to independent valuation and the availability of funding.

(15) T H A T the proposed governance arrangements for the Eastern Gateway Project be endorsed and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place to agree a tolerances and escalation framework for the project.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide a clear strategic framework for the development of the site and ensure alignment with the Council's regeneration, placemaking and corporate objectives.

(2) To ensure robust governance arrangements were in place to support effective project management, oversight and timely decision making throughout project delivery.

(3) To maximise opportunities to secure external investment and enable the timely progression of the project.

(4) To enable project delivery activities to progress efficiently and in accordance with the Council's procurement requirements.

(5) To enable contracts to be awarded in a timely manner and support efficient project delivery.

(6) To provide flexibility in project delivery where specialist services or time-critical requirements made a direct award the most appropriate route to procurement.

(7) To enable the Council to secure all necessary statutory approvals, consents and regulatory permissions required to progress the project and facilitate its timely delivery.

(8) To enable the Council to undertake the necessary due diligence, surveys and technical investigations required to inform design, feasibility and project development.

(9) To ensure all legal documentation was completed in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements and statutory requirements.

(10) To enable the timely development of project proposals and the submission of funding opportunities as they arose.

(11) To facilitate site assembly and bring key land parcels into Council ownership, enabling a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the regeneration and development of the Eastern Gateway site.

(12) To facilitate site assembly and bring key land parcels into Council ownership, enabling a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to the regeneration and development of the Eastern Gateway site.

(13) To ensure all legal documentation associated with the acquisition of land and property interests could be completed efficiently and in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements and statutory requirements

(14) To facilitate the timely assembly of the site and secure the land required to deliver the project's objectives.

(15) To ensure robust governance arrangements were in place to support effective project management, oversight and timely decision making throughout project delivery.