

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 22nd January, 2026.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair); Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, C.A. Cave, W. Gilligan, S.J. Haines, S.M. Hanks, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, H.M. Payne, S.D. Perkes and R.R. Thomas.

Representing Town and Community Councils: Councillors S. Hodges (Barry Town Council), W. Norman (Llantwit Major Town Council) (Substitute), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), M. Phillips (Dinas Powys Community Council), J. Radcliffe (Eweny Community Council), Dr. M. Misra (Llandough Community Council) (Substitute), K. Walters (Llandow Community Council) (Substitute), S. Bonnar (Llanfair Community Council), P. Summers (Penllyn Community Council) (Substitute), S.M. Toker (St. Athan Community Council), J. Thomas (St. Donats Community Council) (Substitute), A. Cory (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council), N. Parry (Sully and Lavernock Community Council) and C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Councillors J. Aviet, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), J. Protheroe and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

609 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting would be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

610 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors S. Campbell, M. Wilson (Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council), G. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), R. Cox (Penarth Town Council) (Substitute), B. Morris (Colwinston Community Council), J. Shaw (Llandow Community Council) and T. Partridge (St. Donats Community Council).

611 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

612 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

613 SOUTH WALES POLICE SERVICE – VERBAL UPDATE INSPECTOR HUW TYLER –

The Chair welcomed Inspector Huw Tyler as the new South Wales Police Service Representative for the Committee going forward and requested the Committee's permission to send a letter of thanks to his predecessor, Inspector Gareth Childs, for their valuable contributions to the committee in recent years.

Inspector Tyler provided an overview of his background and responsibilities as the new Inspector for Barry, the Vale and Penarth. They reported that overall crime had decreased by 3% between January and December 2025 compared with the previous year, with reductions in public order offences, shoplifting, violence with injury, criminal damage and residential burglary. Increases were noted in violence without injury, vehicle interference, drug trafficking (due to national recording changes), and robbery (linked to the introduction of a new “business robbery” offence).

Updates were given on ongoing operational activity including the Winter of Action targeting retail theft and prolific offenders, resulting in two Criminal Behaviour Orders. Test purchase operations in Penarth were undertaken, with two of four premises failing and due for retesting. Plain-clothes patrols and the establishment of a Pub Watch scheme in Penarth were also highlighted.

On rural crime, the Inspector outlined his new role as force lead and work underway to strengthen governance, review Operation Waxbury, and explore investment in mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology/cameras. They also reported on recent thefts from vans in Barry and Penarth, noting increased patrols and that no further incidents had occurred since early January.

Following the Inspector's verbal update, the Committee raised the following comments and questions that the Inspector kindly responded to as follows:

Speaker – Comments/Questions	Inspector's Response
Councillor Anne Asbrey VoG Elected Member Dinas Powys Ward Whether additional officers had been recruited and, if so, whether they would be on foot patrols rather than primarily driving.	The Inspector confirmed additional officers had been allocated, though some were moved from high-demand areas. The direction given was to increase visibility, including officers being out on foot. The winter action plan ended in January, but the intention was to maintain high-visibility patrols.
Councillor Mark Wilson (Vice-Chair) VoG Elected Member Stanwell Ward, Penarth.	The Inspector expressed appreciation and confirmed the valuable role Councillors play as eyes and ears

Thanked PCSOs and Inspector for their improved visibility in Penarth and noted positive engagement. They welcomed new powers around aggravated shoplifting and stressed the shared role of councillors and PCSOs as conduits for community intelligence.	alongside PCSOs. They acknowledged the volume of information managed through the team and thanked Community Safety Warden Tony Parker for his proactive work.
Councillor Malcolm Phillips Dinas Powys Community Council Representative. Echoed support for increased foot patrols. They raised concerns over ongoing parking obstruction within Dinas Powys village square, particularly vehicles blocking the bus stop and causing issues for Cardiff Bus. They asked whether Police could assist.	The Inspector confirmed that obstruction issues fell within Police powers. They committed to tasking the team to look into the matter, undertake local enquiries, and assess what action could be taken.
Councillor Sally Hanks VoG Elected Member Llantwit Major Ward. Highlighted issues with youths using electric scooters in Llantwit Major in an unsafe manner and asked what action Police could take.	The Inspector acknowledged the balance between not criminalising young people and ensuring public safety. They noted enforcement was possible but often limited by difficulties identifying riders. They would discuss current plans with the team and explore educational opportunities with schools and youth clubs. They were also working with Safer Barry Group on e-bike mentoring and would explore extending this.
Councillor Summers Penllyn Community Council Representative. Raised the need for more consistent PCSO attendance at Community Council meetings, suggesting a scheduled rota so Councils could rely on periodic attendance.	The Inspector confirmed PCSOs had already been directed to maintain contact with Councillors via email, telephone, or meeting attendance. They agreed to review meeting schedules and asked to be informed if Councillors experienced difficulties contacting PCSOs. The Inspector asked to be informed of any Councils feeling unsupported so issues could be followed up. They emphasised that if staff could not attend meetings due to operational reasons, they should notify Councillors and provide written updates where appropriate.

In conclusion, the Chair supported the need for improved consistency in Community Council attendance and reminded Committee of the Inspector's contact details available via the agenda front sheet as standard.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T Inspector Tyler be welcomed to the Committee and thanked for their time and verbal update.

(2) T H A T a letter of thanks be sent to Inspector Gareth Childs.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide the Committee with a quarterly update since last received in October 2025.

(2) To ensure that the Committee's formal and sincere thanks are passed to Inspector Childs for his valuable contributions to the Committee in recent years.

614 SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – VERBAL UPDATE GROUP MANAGER MARTIN O'KEEFE –

The Group Manager apprised the Committee on the following matters in relation to the Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan areas since the last update that had been provided to the Committee in October 2025 as follows:

The Group Manager reported that overall incident numbers in the Vale had decreased during Quarter 3 compared to the same period last year, with a particularly notable 34% reduction in deliberate fires. Crews from Barry Fire Station, alongside the Arson Reduction Team, South Wales Police and Vale of Glamorgan Council, undertook Operation Sentinel in response to increased anti-social behaviour linked to deliberate fire-setting in the Holton Road area, with early indications of positive impact.

A total of 227 incidents were attended within the Vale during the quarter, down from 368 in the previous year. Recent major incident support included the service's involvement in the Storm Claudia response in Miskin, utilising water rescue capabilities. The Service also responded to 16 accidental dwelling fires, with a continued concern highlighted regarding fires involving lithium-ion batteries used in devices such as e-scooters, mobile phones and laptops. Public safety campaigns were ongoing to address these risks.

The Service had completed 15,380 home fire safety checks so far this financial year, fitting smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and providing safety advice, with Councillors encouraged to promote the free service to vulnerable and older residents.

Education and prevention work continued through 71 youth education programmes, six road safety campaigns, and extensive community engagement over the festive period, including charity work with the Noah's Ark Foundation and a community Christmas dinner at Barry Fire Station aimed at reducing social isolation. Work was progressing on a new Community Risk Management Plan, which would be shared with partners once finalised.

Following the Group Manager's verbal update, the Committee raised the following comments and questions that the Group Manager kindly responded to as follows:

Speaker – Comments/Questions	Group Manager's Response
Councillor Malcolm Phillips Dinas Powys Community Council Representative. Expressed thanks for the update and referred to a recent fire in the Dinas Powys area, noting local speculation that it was caused by a lithium-ion battery from an e-scooter and sought clarification to relay concerns from residents.	The Group Manager advised they could not confirm the cause of any specific incident without an official fire report. They noted reports suggesting lithium-ion involvement and reiterated key safety messages: avoid overnight or unattended charging, keep devices out of escape routes, and purchase CE-marked products.
Councillor Sandra Perkes VoG Elected Member Court Ward, Barry. Asked how quickly lithium battery fires developed and how much time occupants typically had to evacuate.	The Group Manager stated that lithium-ion batteries could enter thermal runaway very rapidly, producing flammable vapors and igniting with little warning. They advised monitoring devices when charging, unplugging any overheating or swollen batteries, moving them outside safely, and calling 999 if concerned.
Councillor Mark Wilson (Vice-Chair) VoG Elected Member Stanwell Ward, Penarth. Queried whether fires involving unattended tumble dryers remained an issue for the service and requested advice on safe dryer placement. As a secondary question, asked whether protective charging boxes existed for small devices.	The Group Manager advised that no dryer-related fires were known in the current quarter but noted that domestic appliance-related incidents still occurred. They emphasized regular filter cleaning, avoiding overnight operation and never leaving appliances running unattended. They were unaware of any approved charging enclosures and advised charging devices on hard, non-combustible surfaces.

In conclusion, the Chair referred to a recent incident that had come to their attention involving someone charging a mobile phone while using it in the bath, highlighting the obvious electrocution risks that were not obvious to the individual. Therefore,

continued education on general electrical safety guidance and the dangers associated with charging devices near water or in unsafe conditions were key.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Group Manager O’Keefe be thanked for their time and verbal update.

615 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD – VERBAL UPDATE –

Councillor Summers provided an overview of key matters considered at the most recent meeting of the Public Service Board (PSB), noting that detailed notes had already been circulated to Committee Members.

They highlighted the introduction of the Family Compass Service, a new single-entry contact point for all child-related services across the Vale and partner organisations. The approach provided a neutral and non-judgemental gateway offering support ranging from early advice to significant interventions and may function as a useful model for other Council service areas in future.

The Director of Public Health for Cardiff and the Vale, Clare Benham, presented her Annual Public Health Report to the PSB, which focused on issues relating to Type 2 diabetes. A link to the full report had been shared with Members.

An update was also provided on the Good Food Movement, a whole-system approach to healthy eating and healthy weight. The current two-year plan, its early achievements and the first six-month progress update were summarised. The relevant report was circulated with the Councillor’s notes.

The PSB’s six-monthly report had also been reviewed and was available on the Council’s website. In addition, Lloyd Fisher presented recently published data from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Members were advised that the number of areas within the Vale ranked among the 10 most deprived had increased from three to seven, all located within Barry. Work to address the newly identified areas would now be progressed alongside existing programmes. It was further noted that three rural areas in the Vale were ranked within the 10 most deprived nationally specifically regarding access to services, highlighting the need to recognise rural deprivation as well as urban. Updates were provided on the Your Place programme, which focused on interventions within the most deprived neighbourhoods in Barry and would now be expanded to cover all seven affected areas.

The PSB also received an update from Rob Thomas regarding regeneration work in Barry Town Centre, including progress on developments in Holton Road, the new community centre, and emerging projects relating to the former Filco store and integrated service proposals for the Western Gateway.

Following Councillor Summer’s verbal update, Councillor Sally Hanks took the opportunity to thank Councillor Summers for the interesting information that they had created and stated how the information was much appreciated. The Chair echoed

the comments of Councillor Hanks and how they hoped that each Member of the Committee would be disseminating the information as widely as possible within their respective Councils.

Councillor Summers concluded by highlighting the importance of all Councils having an appreciation of what was going on across the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan area, and not just their respective Council areas, and requested that Members reach out to them with any topics they wished to be raised at future PSB meetings.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Councillor Summers be thanked for their written and verbal update in their capacity as the Town and Community Council Representative on the Public Service Board.

616 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION: COWBRIDGE WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL – INFORMATION ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN –

A request for consideration was received from Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council in relation to Information on the Local Development Plan. In response, the Head of Sustainable Development for the Vale of Glamorgan Council provided a presentation to the Committee on the RLDP Strategy / Deposit Plan and Consultation / Publicity Methods going forward.

The Officer advised that the Deposit Plan consultation would run for a statutory 6-week period between the 28th January and 11th March 2026, to allow interested parties to make representations on all policies and allocations. Representations made as part of the Deposit Plan would be considered and reported back to VoG Full Council (via Cabinet and Place Scrutiny), envisaged for Autumn 2026. Subject to approval of the consultation report / Deposit RLDP by Full Council, the Plan would be submitted to Welsh Government for examination by an Independent Planning Inspector, potentially in early 2027.

The Officer's slides were provided in advance within the meeting papers, with slide 6 setting out the details of public engagement drop-in sessions available to Town and Community Councils and members of the public alike.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Chair reminded Members that the discussion should focus on the process of the consultation, not the content. Therefore, it was hoped that substantive representations would be submitted via Town and Community Councils directly as part of the consultation.

The Committee went on to raise the following comments and questions that the Officer kindly responded to as follows:

Speaker – Comments/Questions	Officer's Response
Councillor Malcolm Phillips Dinas Powys Community Council Representative.	The Officer explained that resource limitations prevented full-day events be held but residents may attend any

Raised concerns about timings of consultation events (e.g. 3:30–6:30pm in Dinas Powys), noting these restricted attendance for working residents and suggested that full-day sessions be available.	session regardless of venue/area, and that the relevant Council team was available outside event times for contact.
Councillor Sandra Toker St. Athan Community Council Representative. Raised similar concerns about early finish times for the public engagement events disadvantaging rural residents and suggested extending some events to 7:30pm.	The Officer acknowledged the issue being raised by Councillor Toker and agreed to discuss possible adjustments with the team facilitating the events however, stressed the need to balance event arrangements to ensure that they neither ran too early nor too late in the day as officers had received criticism in relation to both.
Councillor Anne Asbrey VoG Elected Member Dinas Powys Ward Queried whether objections received before the consultation period were kept, and whether paper forms would be available at events to take away and submit at a later date.	The Officer confirmed that hard-copy forms would be available and that staff could help residents complete them at the time of the event as well as separately. Representations should ideally be made within the statutory window.
Councillor Stephen Haines VoG Elected Member St. Athan Ward. Requested that the Officer attend a St Athan Community Council meeting, with local Members, to discuss concerns directly.	The Officer agreed and asked for Councillor Haines to confirm future Council meeting dates in writing, following the meeting, in order to arrange a meeting and assess their availability.
Councillor Michael Cuddy Penarth Town Council Representative. Expressed concerns about the focus on allocations overshadowing other policies (e.g. sustainability, biodiversity) and queried the status of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and the consultants' role.	The Officer confirmed that the ISA would accompany the draft Plan and agreed to explore highlighting broader policies at the public events. The Officer also noted that feedback often focused on allocations, however this was not the only focus of the events. The Chair also suggested that Councillor Cuddy follow up with any

	detailed technical questions by email direct to the Officer.
Councillor Christine Cave VoG Elected Member Llandow Ward Sought clarification that individuals, not just collective Councils, could submit their own views.	The Chair clarified that individuals, as well as collective Councils, were fully encouraged to submit representations.
Councillor Summers Penllyn Community Council Representative. Requested that clearer guidance be included in future presentations provided on how rural affordable housing allocations would be treated and assessed. It was a grave concern of rural Town and Community Councils that planning policy did not match the reality of rural settlements.	The Officer advised that there were four rural allocations currently under consultation that may be wholly or partially affordable. These were relatively small allocations compared to others. New policy may require market housing to demonstrate local needs as well as affordable housing. This was a new approach for the Vale of Glamorgan, noting a similar approach in Monmouthshire, and anticipated strong local engagement.

In conclusion, the Chair echoed the Officer's closing comment in that it was hoped that everyone submitted comments to reflect the reality and overall picture in relation to the allocations proposed and emphasized the importance of high public participation in the consultation.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the Head of Sustainable Development be thanked for their time and presentation.

Reason for decision

In response to the Request for Consideration submitted by Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council on Information regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Plan.