

No.

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

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

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

**Present:** Councillor Jayne Norman (Mayor); Councillors Julie Aviet, Vincent Bailey, Rhiannon Birch, Jonathan Bird, Bronwen Brooks, Lis Burnett, George Carroll, Christine Cave, Janice Charles, Millie Collins, Geoff Cox, Robert Crowley, Andrew R.T. Davies, Pamela Drake, Vincent Driscoll, Stewart Edwards, Ben Gray, Owen Griffiths, Stephen Griffiths, Sally Hanks, Nic Hodges, Hunter Jarvie, Gwyn John, Dr. Ian Johnson, Gordon Kemp, Peter King, Kevin Mahoney, Kathryn McCaffer, Anne Moore, Neil Moore, Michael Morgan, Rachel Nugent-Finn, Andrew Parker, Bob Penrose, Sandra Perkes, Andrew Robertson, Ruba Sivagnanam, John Thomas, Neil Thomas, Steffan Wiliam, Margaret Wilkinson, Edward Williams and Mark Wilson.

### 893 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business being transacted, the Mayor read the following statement:

“May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

### 894 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declarations were received:

Councillor J. Aviet	Agenda Item No 8(f) – Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2022/23; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest
Councillor J. Aviet	Agenda Item No 8(i) – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest
Councillor J. Aviet	Agenda Item No. 10(g) – Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2022/23; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest

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Councillor J. Aviet	Agenda Item No. 10(k) – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest
Councillor C.A. Cave	Agenda item 8(l) - Non Domestic Rates – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief declared that as she paid Non – Domestic rates she would abstain from voting if a vote was taken
Councillor R. Crowley	Agenda Item No. 8(b) – Pay Policy 2022/23; the nature of the interest was he had family members employed by the Council, however he had a dispensation to speak and vote
Councillor G.C. Kemp	Agenda Item No. 8(b) – Pay Policy 2022/2023; the nature of the interest was he had a family member employed by the Council, however he had a dispensation to speak and vote
Councillor A. Moore	Agenda Item No. 8(b) – Pay Policy 2022/2023; the nature of the interest was she had a family member employed by the Council, however she had a dispensation to speak and vote
Councillor N. Moore	Agenda Item No. 8(b) – Pay Policy 2022/2023; the nature of the interest was he had a family member employed by the Council, however he had a dispensation to speak and vote
Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	Agenda Item 8(b) - Pay Policy 2022/2023; the nature of the interest was she had a family member employed by the Council, however, she had a dispensation to speak and vote
Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	Agenda Item No. 8(f) – Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2022/23; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest
Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	Agenda Item No. 8(i) – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest

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Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	Agenda Item No. 10(g) – Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2022/23; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest
Councillor M.R. Wilkinson	Agenda Item No. 10(k) – Housing Revenue Account Business Plan; the nature of the interest was that she was a Council tenant, however her personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest

895 MINUTES –

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 be approved as a correct record.
- (2) T H A T the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 6.00 p.m. be approved as a correct record.
- (3) T H A T the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 6.35 p.m. be approved as a correct record.

896 ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- (i) The Leader made the following announcement.

It would be wrong of me not to make some comment about the war that is occurring in Ukraine – a Democratic European Society, a Sovereign State and Country in its own right with a Democratically elected Government.

The abhorrent invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces on the instructions of Vladimir Putin was an unprovoked Act of War which continues to escalate – as does the dire humanitarian crisis, which has resulted in the displacement of more than 1½ million people. The shock, horror and despair that is being suffered by the Ukrainian People will be marked as the greatest humanitarian crisis on our continent since World War II.

We must all reiterate our unequivocal solidarity for Ukrainians and others displaced in the face of Putin's aggression some of whom are bravely resisting this attack on their sovereignty, independence and the right to self-determination.

Such a crisis also demonstrates the way in which other European nations have mobilised in terms of support and assistance, particularly the selfless manner in

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which they have not faltered in providing sanctuary to those fleeing the consequences of this unwarranted invasion.

We must also pay tribute to the brave Russian students and young people who have been bravely protesting across the Russian Federation. They are the real future of Russia and I salute them for their stance against the Kremlin.

Here in the Vale we may seem very far away from the crisis, but I am already aware that there are people asking what can we do and if we will be supporting any refugee plans that may be put in place.

The simple answer is – ‘Yes’ – as we have done with other refugees, who need shelter, support and solace. As a Nation of Sanctuary, we stand ready to welcome people who need and want to leave Ukraine at this crucial time.

The Home Office has been asked to make it easier to escape to Britain given the number of people massing at the Ukrainian borders and beyond. The Home Office has already created the global “UK Resettlement Scheme”, some 12 months ago, so the policy mechanism exists to potentially receive evacuees / refugees, some of whom I am sure will want to return home, as I would, should things stabilise.

Moving forward, I have already had discussions with Welsh Government, Local Authority Leaders and the WLGA and support is being co-ordinated across the local government family.

I would like to say a word on the issue of aid and support and although I understand the desire, we each feel to do all we can to help people of Ukraine, I would encourage anyone who is able to help to consider making a financial donation.

This can be done through the British Red Cross, UNICEF UK or to the Disaster Emergency Committee at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk) which represents 15 major aid charities. Allocating the funding in this way will ensure the targeted support reaches those who need it as quickly and as efficiently as possible, rather than by donating goods.

These are certainly Dark Days, which I had not hoped to have seen in my lifetime but this brings into focus the reasons why in Europe, Twinning arrangements and Diplomacy exist between European People and their Countries and which ensues stable, peaceful and safe environments to work, live and raise your families.

I also need to emphasise that although our thoughts are with the Ukrainian People, we must also remember there are valued community members of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarussian origin living in Wales and we must ensure our words and actions protect their safety too and not target aggression to those who have no influence on Putin’s Russian aggression.

Finally, I will ensure that our website and media channels will keep everyone informed if there are any announcements from the UK Government.

In response the Mayor took the opportunity to echo the Leader’s comments which were wholeheartedly supported.

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897 USE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S EMERGENCY POWERS (CX) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Managing Director's Emergency Powers be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the Council's Constitution.

898 CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS (CX) –

In order to comply with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument No. 3171) an advertisement inviting non-domestic ratepayers to inspect the Council's expenditure proposals and to submit representations on the same was placed in the Western Mail on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022.

Copies of the Council's expenditure proposals had been forwarded to local non-domestic ratepayers, who had been invited to submit any comments by 12.00 noon on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. Following the Leader advising Members that no responses had been received as a result of the consultation it was

RESOLVED – T H A T the position be noted as no responses to the consultation had been received.

Reason for decision

To comply with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument No. 3171).

899 DEPUTISING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (CX) –

The report recommended supplementing the deputising arrangements for the Chief Executive in the circumstances of his absence (for example whilst on annual leave or absent due to sickness) to include the posts of Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Place and to take effect upon each Director commencing in post.

The titles of Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Place were being recommended to be added to the Council's existing Officer Scheme of Delegations set out in the Council's Constitution in respect of the service areas for which each Director would have responsibility, taking effect immediately upon each Director commencing in post.

The report also noted the amendments to the Council's Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to delegated authority in light of the redesignation of the Managing Director to Chief Executive. The Council's Constitution would be updated

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to reflect the legislative changes including consequential changes required as a result of relevant provisions in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 which came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the additional deputy cover arrangements for the Chief Executive, as referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the report, to cover the circumstances of any future absence and to ensure that the Chief Executive's delegations as set out in the Council's Constitution may be discharged, be approved.

(2) T H A T such arrangements as referred to in Resolution (1) above be approved with immediate effect and exercised by nomination by the Chief Executive from amongst the Director of Social Services, the Director of Environment and Housing, the Director of Learning and Skills, the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Place (the inclusion of the two new Director roles taking effect upon each of the two new Directors commencing in post).

(3) T H A T the titles of the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Place be included in the Council's Officer Scheme of Delegations in respect of the service areas for which each Director will have responsibility taking effect immediately upon each Director commencing in post.

(4) T H A T it be noted that the Monitoring Officer had made amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out at Appendix A to the report to reflect incidental amendments as the result of the redesignation of the Managing Director to Chief Executive and some housekeeping changes.

(5) T H A T the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report and as detailed at Appendices B and C, to reflect the legislative changes which had come into force be approved, and the proposed amendments referred to in Appendix B which were due to come into force on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 be approved.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1-3) To ensure appropriate management arrangements in the circumstances of the absence of the Chief Executive.

(4) To amend the Council's Constitution to reflect changes previously approved by Council.

(5) To reflect current and pending statutory provisions.

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900 DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2021-2026 (REF) –

The draft strategy had been considered by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and referred to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 as outlined within the reference, and was now being referred to Council for approval.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Draft Local Housing Strategy as considered by Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Minute No C809) be approved.

Reason for decision

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

901 PAY POLICY 2022/23 (REF) –

The Council had a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a pay policy statement for the new financial year 2022/23. The statement needed to be approved and published by 31st March, 2022. The document provided a framework for ensuring that employees were rewarded fairly and objectively, in accordance with the service needs of the Council and that there was openness and transparency in relation to the process. The report had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (Minute No. C814 refers).

The reference highlighted that the Pay Policy had been incrementally developed since 2012 to incorporate the following;

- Guidance from Welsh Government as contained in the document “Pay Accountabilities in Local Government in Wales” as updated January 2016.
- Changes as prescribed by the Local Authorities Standing Orders (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which took effect from 1st July, 2014.
- Changes as prescribed by the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that any proposed changes to the salary of Chief Officers (as defined in the Localism Act 2011) were made following consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.
- Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 had been taken into account as part of the annual Pay Policy Statement.
- Necessary refinements as a result of changes to the Council's senior management structure over recent years.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Pay Policy as attached at Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Minute No C814) be approved.

Reason for decision

To respond to the legal requirement under the Localism Act and to provide openness and accountability in how the Council rewarded its staff.

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902 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN PETITION SCHEME (REF) –

The report sought endorsement for the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme in line with the duty under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Section 42 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, placed a legal duty on Principal Councils in Wales to make and publish a petition scheme setting out how the Council would handle and respond to petitions, including electronic petitions (e-petitions).

There was a duty for the petition scheme to set out:

- (a) how a petition may be submitted to the Council;
- (b) how and by when the Council would acknowledge receipt of a petition;
- (c) the steps the Council may take in response to a petition received by it;
- (d) the circumstances (if any) in which the Council may take no further action in response to a petition; and
- (e) how and by when the Council would make available its response to a petition to the person who submitted the petition and to the public.

There was also a requirement for the new petition scheme to be implemented and in place by 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme at Appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Minute No C817) be approved with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 and incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

Reason for decision

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

903 FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 (REF) –

The Leader presented the final proposals for the revenue budget for the financial year 2022/23 and referred Members to the previously circulated supplementary information which had been required due to the additional funding of £4000 received in the Councils Revenue Support Grant from the Welsh Government. This had been incorporated into the proposed budget which remained a balanced budget.

He reminded Members that the initial Revenue Budget Proposals for 2022/23 had been presented to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. At that stage, the Council had not received notification of the provisional settlement from Welsh Government. As a result, modelling of various scenarios had been carried out with regard to the level of the settlement and possible increases in Council Tax. Based on those assumptions the Leader reported a shortfall of potentially up to £27m in the revenue budget for the coming financial year. The original intention he stated had been to draw down £1,000,000, but that would now be £4000 or less.

Referring to the delays and timing of the information being made available in relation



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to the provisional settlement by WG, he was pleased that the Council had received a headline increase of 10.51% and considering the adjustments an increase of £17.833m which was 10.64% from the previous year including the additional £4000. In comparison to previous years, he had considered the process of preparing the budget proposals to be one of the most difficult he had had to deal with in the context of funding for specific areas, alluding to the national living wage for social care and funding for highways, resulting in Cabinet delaying consideration of its final proposals until 28th of February, 2022.

He confirmed that the proposed budget provided funding towards meeting some of the cost pressures facing the Council circa £16m which had been reduced down from circa £28m. In addition, the proposed Budget would also set an efficiency target of £500k for 2022/23 and would cover all service areas of the Council as detailed in the Cabinet report at Appendix C. Therefore, it was being proposed that the Council Tax Band D rate be set at £1396.30 an increase of 2.9% for 2022/23. He reminded Members that the current Medium Term Financial Plan indicated a potential 3.9% rise. At the time the public consultation was undertaken on the budget, the inflation CPI rate was running at 3.2%, since that time it had incrementally increased to the current rate of 5.5%. This had meant that this had had a knock-on effect in terms of the increase in costs which required addressing and he considered the budget proposals as reasonable in the context of the above. He also touched upon the indicative settlement rates, which he had been informed of by WG for the period 2024/25 and stressed these were only indicative and may be lower.

In terms of pay increases, certain assumptions had been made given that non-teaching pay awards were still subject of negotiations.

In regard to Schools, the proposals would not require schools to find any savings and was pleased to confirm that the budget would continue to fund schools at £1.2M above their Indicator Base Assessment.

With regard to Social Services, he was mindful of the continuing pressures on this service both as a result of increasing costs within the independent sector and the increasing demands for services to support the ageing population in the Vale. This budget therefore provided additional funding for the service. WG had provided funding towards the implementation of paying the Real Living Wage (RLW) to Social Care staff which was £9.90 for 2022/23. Funding for this commitment had been included. As this commitment related to external providers it was a complex calculation as the picture in terms of pay was mixed across the Vale. ADSS Cymru had provided a calculation for the Vale which indicated that the cost of funding providers to deliver the RLW whilst maintaining differentials was £2.12m. The information also showed that WG had provided funding of £1.42m for this as part of the settlement which was a funding shortfall of £700k. In terms of cost pressures in Social Services he indicated that there was a need to create ongoing capacity to respond to an increased level of need, it was proposed that the remaining pressures were funded through a budget programme that utilised the balances accumulated in the Social Services Reserves and the level of drawdown each year would reduce as detailed in the Cabinet report.

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Turning his attention to the Environment and Housing Service, significant cost pressures had been reported within in the current financial year and the budget proposals would address those.

Alluding to potential shortfall in funding in future years, potentially £15.7m, he stressed the importance of protecting the existing Council Tax base and referred to the risks to the Council moving forward if it didn't. If there was no increase in the current Council Tax rate as proposed it would mean that the Council would have to make a higher increase in the following year in order to maintain its base level.

Referring to the reserves held by the Council together with the likely draw down on these in the coming years, he indicated between 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 it was estimated the level of reserves would fall by £39.133m to £45.855m.

The estimated level of the Council Fund Reserve at 1st April 2022 would be £15.2m. It had been agreed that £4m would be transferred into the Council Fund at the initial budget stage and it was proposed that £1m would be use during 2022/23 to fund the revenue budget with a further £500k being utilised in 2023/24. £2.696m of the Council Fund would be used to fund schemes in the capital programme during 2022/23 and £849k would also be transferred into the Waste Transfer Station Reserve from the Council Fund for the Waste Management Fleet parking scheme.

Whilst there is no set requirement for the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve, some commentators used 5% of the net budget as a guide. For the Council this was currently circa £13.6m. However, in view of the prudent approach the Council took with regard to specific reserves, it was proposed that £10m should be the minimum level for this reserve. The details of the reserves could be found at Appendix F to the Cabinet report.

In summing up he reminded Members that the additional funding the Council had received via the Covid Hardship Fund would cease on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Consequently, the budget proposed would set a net revenue budget of £272.554m for 2022/23 which would result in a Council Tax increase of 2.9%.

The Leader moved the following Motion:

- (1) Fix the budget for 2022/23 at £272.558 million including a provision of £290k for discretionary rate relief to rural shops and post offices and charitable organisations.
- (2) Approve the budgets for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix B and in the following table:

	£000
Schools	104,953
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	8,956
Additional Learning Needs	3,334

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Standards and Provision	3,547
Directors Office	242
Children & Young People	18,581
Adult Services	53,816
Resource Management & Safeguarding	7,742
Youth Offending Service	730
Neighbourhood & Transport Services	28,190
Building Services	0
Regulatory Services	2,103
Council Fund Housing	1,444
Resources	983
Housing Benefits	692
Regeneration	2,419
Development Management	1,300
Private Housing	413
General Policy	34,109
Use of Reserves	(996)
Grand Total	272,558

(3) Approve the recommendations regarding Net Growth for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix C and efficiencies set out in paragraph 2.6.

(4) Endorse the proposed draft report on Education Budget and Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) at Appendix A and the Director of Learning and Skills make arrangements for it to be forwarded to the School Budget Forum.

This was duly seconded by the Deputy Leader.

Councillor Carroll welcomed the final revenue settlement which totalled £186.015m, which represented an increase of almost £18m and in percentage terms an increase of 10.64%.

Referring to external finance which only made-up part of the budget the remaining element raised through Council Tax and noting the WG settlement for the Council, Councillor Carroll considered it important to look back on previous years Council Tax rises approved by the Council. He alluded to March 2021 period when inflation stood at 0.7% and the Council Tax increased by 3.9% and the previous year 2020 when a 4.9% increase was approved. He considered that these inflation busting years of Council tax rises had put considerable pressure on hard working people across the Vale of Glamorgan during this time. He also noted the proposals included to transfer £4.2m into the Council reserves, which would take the Council fund to £15.219m and usable reserves in the hundreds of thousands. Despite this, a further 2.9% increase was now proposed. Whilst he accepted that this was below the rate of inflation, it was still a significant increase at a time of extraordinary economic hardship and, if agreed, tonight this 2.9% would raise an additional £2.4m, less than

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the amount that was being transferred into the Council's reserves. This would result in Council Tax on a Band D property in the Vale of Glamorgan being circa £1400 annually. He was aware that other councils across Wales were freezing council tax, and referred to Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend, and given the position of the Councils reserves, he believed it was something the Administration should be doing. He was the first to call for prudence, but given the Council finances, this would allow a freeze to be accepted although it was not something that could be done every year. Councillor Carroll subsequently Moved the following amendment:

That £2.4m be transferred from the Council General Fund reserves into the Revenue base budget to set a 0% Council tax increase.

The amendment was duly seconded by Councillor Bailey.

Councillor Dr Johnson indicated that his Group would be supporting the amendment, however, he was astonished that the Conservative Group were putting themselves forward as being the party of low tax. He reminded Members that in the coming weeks they would be paying more in National Insurance and certain residents would be facing difficulties because of the removal of the triple lock on pensions.

He considered the Conservative Groups amendment to be ironic, but acknowledged the points made being similar to the points that he had raised over many different budget debates in the past. This was his tenth budget and he had done his best to ensure that Plaid Cymru had been a constructive opposition by engaging in the process, listening to briefings and asking questions.

His main point of concern was that the Council was doing better than it originally thought with an increase of £5.5m in revenue income. Whereas residents facing a cost-of-living crisis with inflation in shopping bills, conservative tax on wages for those in work, below inflation increases in benefits and pensions and people were spending more and getting less. This was before the significant increases in energy bills. He referred to the agreement reached at Barry Town Council where the three political parties had agreed not to increase its precept and he could not in good faith support an increase in the Vale council tax at this time.

It was notable the Council held the fourth highest usable reserves in Wales, £92m an increase of £9m on the previous year. This amount did not reflect all of the usable reserves, which was circa £125 million. He found it also ironic that a Labour controlled Council had fiscal conservatism, being overly cautious. The Council was not in a weak position as it emerged from the pandemic financially and consequently, he felt the Council should be delivering services without costing its residents more when there were so many other things that were affecting them.

Councillor Bailey echoed the comments of his Group Leader (Councillor Carroll). He considered the proposed increase would be higher than wage increases for almost every sector in the country with the Council receiving an uplift in its funding settlement from the Welsh Government 10.6%. He was amazed that the meeting was not unanimously welcoming freezing council tax. The proposed use of reserves on a one off basis would provide some relief to the economic pressures facing Vale

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residents. He considered any increase difficult to justify when the Council leadership had found funding for additional senior officer salaries.

Councillor Bailey called on the Administration to transfer £2.4m from its reserves into the Revenue base budget to allow for a one-off freeze in Council Tax. He hoped that all Members would support the amendment.

Councillor John signalled he would be supporting the budget proposals referring to costs pressures facing the Council in particular, those impacting significantly adult social care, he also touched upon matters affecting waste management, all of which he said the Leader of the Council had already highlighted earlier in the debate. He understood the situation including, other economic and inflationary pressures affecting residents. He was also mindful of the unknown implications of the need to rightly offer support to refugees seeking safety from the Ukrainian conflict. He was not surprised by the Conservative Group's amendment being an election on the horizon to set a zero-percentage increase as they had done in previous election years. He reminded the Conservative Group in 2019 that they could not agree amongst themselves a budget for that year which led to the formation of the current coalition to prevent the Council from being taken control of by Welsh Government. He was concerned that a failure to set a Council Tax rise as proposed could lead to the potential to increase the Council Tax in the following financial year in the region of 8%.

Councillor Wilson agreeing with Councillor John's comments referred to the pressures facing the Councils Social Services and reminded Members that the reserves set aside by the Council over the recent years were to deliver the Council 21<sup>st</sup> century School programme and the work to deliver this would require the use of those reserves in the future. He did not accept the points being made by opposition Members that the Council was making a profit as they were unable to do so. Favourable variances from one year to the next allowed funding to be put into reserves which was to be welcomed. The Council had a good record in regard to its performance for collecting Council Tax and he supported the proposals which were in fact lower than wage inflation of 5.5%. It was important not to destroy the council tax base now only to face the need to significantly increase it in following years. He indicated that he would be supporting the budget proposals.

Councillor Charles wishing to support her colleagues Councillors Carroll and Bailey considered any increase in the current climate where energy bills, food and fuel prices were increasing daily especially for the elderly and less well off as unnecessary and cruel and she would be supporting the amendment.

Councillor John Thomas referring to the comments made by Councillor Carroll and his group colleagues said he did not think they had understood quite what the Leader of the Council was saying about the base budget and the implications of taking out £2.4m of reserves. The effect that it would have over the next Council, would be £12m. He reminded both Councillors Carroll and Bailey of their position made over the previous years on the matter of setting the Council Tax, in that they would have set the lowest tax increase of any council in Wales which would assist them in electioneering. If the Council had listened to those calls and agreed to do so over the last 5 years it was likely that the Council would be looking at a £25m short

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fall in its base budget and the Council reserves significantly affected and therefore he said he would be supporting the budget proposals of the Leader of the Council.

In supporting Councillor Carroll's amendment, Councillor Robertson suggested that the exceptional circumstances facing many residents should be borne in mind when considering increasing Council Tax. It was clear to him many were struggling with the increased costs in energy prices. He alluded to Project Zero, the impact of the pandemic and the resulting precarious financial state of residents and accordingly he felt that the Council should do all it could to help its residents by setting a 0% increase.

Councillor King pointed out that the Leader started the meeting by highlighting the plight of the Ukrainian people and all were united in its support towards that crisis with the possibility of welcoming refugees. To do that the Council required the financial capacity to do so. It also appeared to him that certain Members had forgotten that the hike in energy was nothing to do with Project Zero and substantially to do with global energy prices, notably gas which was vastly increasing well before the Ukrainian war started. The Council itself was facing increases in its energy bill to heat schools and care homes. He was also concerned that the financial support provided by WG would be winding down as lock down restrictions were lifted, but there still remained a challenge to address the number of homeless people within the Vale. He felt that Councillor John Thomas' in his comments had made a particularly pertinent point regarding the base budget. The Council could set a budget and a 0% increase in Council tax to win votes, but that would leave the Council vulnerable in the future and in his opinion a huge disservice to not only to the people of the Vale, and notably the vulnerable people of the Vale, but also Council staff who had served the Council brilliantly over the past two years. He indicated he would not be supporting the amendment.

Councillor Neil Thomas referring to the comments made by Councillor Charles whilst being true, the Council was also subject to the same increases in costs in terms of energy use, costs of materials and wages. Alluding to the consequences of a 0% increase as highlighted earlier in the debate referred to another Council as an example of where they had not increased Council Tax for some years, it had taken them many years to get back a position of having a balanced budget having steeply increased Council Tax to do so. He considered the amendment to be opportunistic and disingenuous. He reminded Members that the Council had been recognised for its fiscal prudence and seen as being the best performing council in Wales, according to the Audit Office. He indicated he would be opposing the amendment.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Burnett had the feeling of dejavu given Councillor Carroll's amendment. The previous three years had seen an attempt to raid reserves to reduce Council Tax, she wondered where the Council would be now if it had agreed to do so in terms of its financial standing. She highlighted that the Council due to its strong financial standing could respond immediately to the pandemic and this was before it was known that hardship funding from WG would be made available. That funding had allowed the Council to buy additional PPE and take other steps during the pandemic because it had the reserves. Reminding Members that the reserves as indicated in Appendix F to the original Cabinet report, clearly indicated what those reserves were identified to be used for in relation to known

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projects. It was likely that the level of reserves would half over the coming years as the projects were delivered and was funding that had been put aside to build new schools and for winter pressures.

She acknowledged that all were living in exceptional circumstances, a point already made earlier by the Leader at the start of the debate. It was unlikely that the situation would not improve in the immediate future. The reserves allowed the Council to step up when it needed to and the buck stopped with local government to delivering services to the most vulnerable in the Vale. If the budget was agreed as proposed the Council would still be facing challenges.

She felt it was right for Members to mention the removal of the triple lock on pensions and she referred to the removal of the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit as it was worth noting costs for the Council had also increased and shortly to hit the Council a National Insurance increase of 10%. This would cost the Council an additional £1m a year. On that basis, she had no hesitation in backing the proposed budget. She considered the challenges facing residents, but these required balancing against the need to deliver good quality services for them and to make sure that nobody at all in the Vale was left behind. She indicated that she would be voting against the amendment.

Councillor Perkes echoed the comments made by Councillor Burnett and said that she was proud to be a Councillor and she fully understood the economic impact of the current situation on her Ward constituents. She indicated that she would not be supporting the amendment and it was notable that some Members were lecturing the Administration on the proposed increase in Council Tax when there was a cost-of-living crisis, created by a Westminster Government not prepared to cut tax on energy bills and refusing to levy a windfall tax on energy company profits made out of the energy crisis. The Council had one of the lowest council taxes in Wales and was the best performing council in Wales. A 2.9% was required in order to maintain the level of services.

Councillor Driscoll considered the criticism of Westminster Government hypocritical given that it had funded the Furlough Scheme and provided funding to Welsh Government to deal with the pandemic. He considered a 0% increase as a tiny blip in the Councils ability to raise funding. He was also critical of the Administration's claims that the amendment to set a 0% increase would be so damaging, harmful and a cynical attempt to gain votes at the forthcoming elections, when Labour colleagues at Bridgend and Neath and Port Talbot Council's agreed to 0% in the coming year for Council Tax.

The Leader reiterated many of his earlier comments and considered the proposed amendment to be reckless. The proposed budget and Council Tax rise was a compromise in the context of the various challenges facing the Council. The settlement from WG was welcomed, but this did not address lost funding as a consequence of austerity imposed on local government over the last ten years. He reminded all Members that there were no guarantees that similar funding settlements would be received from WG in future years.

No.

He further reminded Members that the proposed budget was well below the SSA of £278m and Council Tax Band D in the Vale was below the Welsh average. He said the Council did not make profits off its residents. The report made it clear how and why the Council had a surplus and how that surplus was proposed to be used. He also touched upon the inflationary pressures impacting on the Council's expenditure at the same time the Council was protecting Education and Social Care and referred to a remaining £700k shortfall in funding of the Living Wage in the care sector. Services had received £16m to address cost pressures which had to be dealt with. Officers were being required to identify £500k in efficiency savings in the coming financial year. He did not accept the case to take reserves from the General Fund could be done without appreciating the implications later on for the Council.

The Leader considered the amendment to reduce the Council's General Fund reserve by taking out £2.4m to provide a 0% increase would leave the Fund at £7.7m, which was well below the 5% threshold deemed appropriate by the Council's Section 151 officer. He considered the decisions made by Bridgend and Neath and Port Talbot Councils to be reckless however, he was aware that Flintshire Council had set their Council Tax at 3.95%, Carmarthenshire circa 2.5% and Blaenau Gwent circa 4%.

He welcomed the comments that had been made by Councillor John Thomas and Councillor Neil Thomas earlier in the debate.

He considered that a proposed Council Tax increase of 2.9% was reasonable and he would be voting against the amendment.

Councillor Gray reminded Members that there had been universal acceptance of the cost pressures the Council was facing when considered by the Scrutiny Committees. He referred to population demographic changes and the implications for social services in terms of requirements on the service. All Members were also well aware of the ongoing implications for the Council as a result of the pandemic which were unlikely to go away over the next couple of years. Therefore, he considered it unwise to agree to the proposed amendment and concurred with the Leader's comments in regard to the levels of reserves and their future use. He did not accept Councillor Carroll's comments that there were hundreds of thousands of pounds in reserves. The original Cabinet report clearly laid out how the reserves would be used and referred to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and that in part they had been used to deal with the pandemic as the Deputy Leader had highlighted. The proposed Council Tax increase percentage was half of the current inflation rate.

He considered it notable that the Council's response had always been focused on being able to deliver for its residents, not for the bank balance. The budget proposals in his view were proportionate and took account of all cost pressures the Council was facing. He thanked the relevant Council Officers for preparing the report in circumstances which were difficult to predict. Accordingly, he and his Group could not support the amendment.

The below Recorded Vote took place on the following Amendment:



No.

That £2.4m be transferred from the Council General Fund reserve into the Revenue base budget to set a 0% Council tax increase.

<b>Members</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Julie Aviet		√	
Vincent Bailey	√		
Rhiannon Birch		√	
Jonathan Bird		√	
Bronwen Brooks		√	
Lis Burnett		√	
George Carroll	√		
Christine Cave	√		
Janice Charles	√		
Millie Collins	√		
Geoff Cox		√	
Robert Crowley	√		
Andrew R.T. Davies	√		
Pamela Drake		√	
Vince Driscoll	√		
Stewart Edwards	√		
Ben Gray		√	
Owen Griffiths	√		
Stephen Griffiths	√		
Sally Hanks		√	
Nic Hodges	√		

No.

Hunter Jarvie		√	
Gwyn John		√	
Ian Johnson	√		
Gordon Kemp	√		
Peter King		√	
Kevin Mahoney	√		
Kathryn McCaffer		√	
Anne Moore		√	
Neil Moore		√	
Michael Morgan		√	
Jayne Norman		√	
Rachel Nugent-Finn	√		
Andrew Parker		√	
Bob Penrose	√		
Sandra Perkes		√	
Andrew Robertson	√		
Ruba Sivagnanam		√	
John Thomas		√	
Neil Thomas		√	
Steffan Wiliam	√		
Margaret Wilkinson		√	
Edward Williams		√	

No.

Mark Wilson		√	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	

The Amendment was Lost.

The Leader in summing up referred to his original Motion and reiterated his previous comments in relation to cost pressure bids that had been agreed by the Budget Working Group, all of which had been supported by the scrutiny committees.

Councillor Dr Johnson in thanking the Leader for bringing forward the budget and noting the Leader's comments on how difficult the process had been, indicated that it had been equally difficult from an opposition Member perspective. He felt that the nature of the process had not helped referring to delays and confusion over what funding would actually be received via Westminster and WG. On the whole, he felt that it did not assist him given that six months previous, Members were informed of a £27m funding gap. This had been the process over previous years. He had rejected the proposed budget in the debate on two grounds and whilst the debate had been fascinating his points had been ignored. Referring to the use of reserves that were being used, it was clear these were not actually being spent within year, rather these were being hedged against those being spent. The effect of which was keeping the budget lower than what it would have been the previous year. The Leader had chosen not to do that then, instead he had chosen to increase the base budget and in turn to increase the amount of money that local residents were paying. Referring to the latest figures contained in the Cabinet report, there was an in-year revenue profit or £5.5m which could have been used to reduce a rise in Council Tax. He accepted there was a need to find a balance between what residents paid and where the Council was, and that balance was not right.

Councillor Dr Johnson expressed concern that there had been a failure to employ legislation in regard to second homes ownership which originally came into force in 2014 and would have allowed the rate of Council Tax for such properties to be doubled. He felt the additional income could have been used to support the Councils housing stock and services. He had raised the issue on numerous occasions at scrutiny committees and he had been informed by the Council's previous Section 151 Officer that it would be looked at and would be considered, but it was clear that the Council had decided not to do that.

He did not accept the points previously made in regard to having a low Band D Council Tax rate, that was because the profile of the County's housing was in the upper echelons of the band rates. Therefore, he considered it disingenuous to suggest that residents paid less than the Welsh average on Band D, as this was not the rate most residents paid their tax.

The below Recorded Vote took place on the Leader's Motion:

No.

<b>Members</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Julie Aviet	√		
Vincent Bailey		√	
Rhiannon Birch	√		
Jonathan Bird	√		
Bronwen Brooks	√		
Lis Burnett	√		
George Carroll		√	
Christine Cave		√	
Janice Charles		√	
Millie Collins		√	
Geoff Cox	√		
Robert Crowley		√	
Andrew R.T. Davies		√	
Pamela Drake	√		
Vince Driscoll		√	
Stewart Edwards		√	
Ben Gray	√		
Owen Griffiths		√	
Stephen Griffiths		√	
Sally Hanks	√		
Nic Hodges		√	
Hunter Jarvie	√		

## No.

Gwyn John	√		
Ian Johnson		√	
Gordon Kemp		√	
Peter King	√		
Kevin Mahoney		√	
Kathryn McCaffer	√		
Anne Moore	√		
Neil Moore	√		
Michael Morgan	√		
Jayne Norman	√		
Rachel Nugent-Finn		√	
Andrew Parker			
Bob Penrose		√	
Sandra Perkes	√		
Andrew Robertson		√	
Ruba Sivagnanam	√		
John Thomas	√		
Neil Thomas	√		
Steffan Wiliam		√	
Margaret Wilkinson	√		
Edward Williams	√		
Mark Wilson	√		

No.

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	
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NB. Due to technical difficulties Councillor Parker was unable to take part in the vote on the above Motion.

The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the budget for 2022/23 be fixed at £272.558 million including a provision of £290k for discretionary rate relief to rural shops and post offices and charitable organisations.

(2) T H A T the budgets for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix B to the report and in the following table be approved:

	<b>£000</b>
Schools	104,953
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	8,956
Additional Learning Needs	3,334
Standards and Provision	3,547
Directors Office	242
Children & Young People	18,581
Adult Services	53,816
Resource Management & Safeguarding	7,742
Youth Offending Service	730
Neighbourhood & Transport Services	28,190
Building Services	0
Regulatory Services	2,103
Council Fund Housing	1,444
Resources	983
Housing Benefits	692
Regeneration	2,419
Development Management	1,300
Private Housing	413
General Policy	34,109
Use of Reserves	(996)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>272,558</b>

(3) T H A T the recommendations regarding Net Growth for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix C and efficiencies set out in paragraph 2.6 be approved.

No.

(4) T H A T the proposed draft report on Education Budget and Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) at Appendix A be endorsed and the Director of Learning and Skills make arrangements for it to be forwarded to the School Budget Forum.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To set the 2022/23 budget in line with statutory requirements.
- (2) To allocate budgets to services.
- (3) To reduce risk to services and balance the budget.
- (4) To present the report to the Schools Budget Forum.

904 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 AND FINAL CAPITAL PROPOSALS 2022/3 TO 2026/27 (REF) –

The Leader highlighted the key aspects of the report originally considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The report set out the Capital Strategy for the Council for 2022/23 and the Final Capital proposals for 2022/23 to 2026/2026. Appendix 1 to the report provided a framework which outlined how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of corporate objectives, along with an overview of how associated risks were managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

Having considered the service priorities and the possible funding available over the coming 10-year period, the Leader estimated that the funding gap could be in the region of £12m. The Capital Strategy would be updated on an annual basis and would evolve over future years. This funding gap would require reviewing on a regular basis. He indicated the initial Capital Programme Proposals were presented to Cabinet on 22nd November 2022. At that stage the Council had not received the Provisional Settlement for 2022/23 therefore it was not possible to present a draft Capital Programme. Instead, all of the bids for funding were presented to Cabinet for information and the report was subsequently referred to Scrutiny Committees in December 2022. The comments from the Scrutiny Committees had been taken into account in the development of this five-year programme.

He indicated the Provisional Settlement from Welsh Government was received in December and these figures had informed the proposed Capital programme for the coming five years. All bids had been prioritised in terms of corporate priority, the risk to the Authority if they were not progressed and the contribution they made to the Wellbeing and Future Generations criteria. The programme detailed in the report would be funded through a number of different sources, including General Capital funding from the Welsh Government, the use of capital receipts resulting from the sale of assets, the use of reserves that had been established for that purpose, S106 monies or borrowing money which had to be repaid through the revenue budget.

In order to deliver the necessary capital investment required by the Council it was proposed that £2.696m of the Council Fund reserve be used to fund capital

No.

expenditure and £849k being transferred into the Waste Transfer Station Reserve from the Council Fund for the Waste Management Fleet parking scheme.

The proposed programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report and showed a total spend of £85m in 2022/23 and a total five year programme of just under £254m. The programme included a significant investment in the resurfacing of the roads in the County of £2.3m, partly funded by Welsh Government grant which the Council has allocated in part to improve the highways. The total value of the Band B programme for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools is £43m between 2022/23 and 2024/25 with a budget of nearly £16m in 2022/23.

The Council would receive Welsh Government funding of £2.384m towards Schools Maintenance. The report also detailed the levels of investment required to maintain WHQS standards, Waste Services development, leisure facilities, funding for disabled facility grants and funding in relation to economic and tourism development.

Councillor Dr Johnson firstly indicated that he was disappointed that Welsh Government had reduced their level of funding of just over £1m. His Baruc ward colleagues were grateful to see investments at the Knap skate park and the Eastern shelter on Barry Island Promenade. His final comment was to reiterate his comments made at the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee in regard to sustainable learning communities and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and the need for the Strategic Education programme cover a 10 year period rather than the current 5 years albeit he acknowledged that a draft WESP would be aligned in the future to the Capital Strategy and sought an assurance to that effect.

Councillor Burnett referred to the difficulties due to the different time scales to achieve the alignment Councillor Dr Johnson was referring to in regard to the WESP. She was pleased that the Administration had achieved a 5 year programme for Education, but looking at the Growth Investment Fund she would like to develop a 10 year program going forward. Alluding to her preference to address matters at a strategic level in terms of regeneration of communities, education facilities and employment she felt that there was a need to return to the concept of whole town regeneration, which was discussed in 2012, 2013. She was totally committed to supporting the Welsh language and Welsh medium education and this would play a part in the development of the plans for the sustainable communities for learning.

She also referred to other areas of the Capital Programme, the delivery of 5 schools which could have included the Waterfront Primary School, but this had been delayed but was now back on track. However, it wasn't all about building new schools, it was also about the housing programme and addressing homelessness in the County and referred to the success of the lodges developed at Court Road, Barry, She had engaged in conversations with residents regarding stable housing for those living in the private rented sector alluding to key workers who had had to move home two or three times during the pandemic having been served notice. There was a need to have stable homes and signalled to people in Vale communities that they were working hard to deliver these.



No.

She also considered it important to plan ahead in terms of maintenance in communities alluding to the plan for Barry Island and recent work Penarth Esplanade and Pavilion.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Capital Strategy 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(2) T H A T the final Capital Programme for the years 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

(3) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2022/23 to 2026/27 Housing Improvement Programme as appropriate.

(4) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the 2022/23 to 2026/27 Asset Renewal budgets as appropriate.

(5) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to S106 funded schemes subject to Member consultation as required under the existing process.

(6) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from Energy Management Schemes.

(7) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the Building Strong Communities Fund schemes.

(8) T H A T the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, be granted delegated authority to make additions, deletions or transfers to or from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme (Previously 21st Century Schools schemes).

(9) T H A T the reprofiling of the Housing Improvement Programme for the years 2022/23 to 2026/27 as shown in paragraph 2.51 of the report be approved.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To approve the Capital Strategy for 2022/23.

(2) To set and approve future capital programmes to 2026/27.

No.

- (3) To enable the Housing Capital budget to be managed effectively.
- (4) To enable the Asset Renewal budgets to be managed effectively.
- (5) To enable S106 schemes to be managed effectively.
- (6) To enable the Energy Management Schemes to be managed effectively.
- (7) To enable the Building Stronger Communities Fund to be managed effectively.
- (8) To enable the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme to be managed effectively.
- (9) To reflect the work programme for the Housing Improvement Schemes.

#### 905 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23 (REF) –

The Leader advised that the report before Council presented the final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2022/2023 and to set the rents and service charges for the forthcoming rent year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.

The report detailed the final Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2022/23 and the proposed rents and service charges for the coming financial year. In setting the rent level for 2022/23 the Council had ensured that it had complied with the Policy for Social Housing Rents which was issued by Welsh Government in December 2021. The maximum allowable uplift had been set at CPI only (as at September 2021) 3.1%.

The Leader also referred to the pandemic and confirmed that Welsh Government had suspended target rent bands for 2022/23 which had been replaced by a self-certification monitoring. In order to comply with the rent policy, social landlords were required to ensure their average weekly rent for their general needs and sheltered housing provided value for money and affordability to tenants. The Council had demonstrated this by using the House mark affordability tool which compared Council housing rents with local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). He indicated that Council Housing rents were found to be less than the average rent charged by most RSL for most property sizes and types. In addition, Council tenants paid less than 30% of their income on rent which was a common affordability test.

The Council proposed to increase its rent by an average of 2.75%. Due to Covid 19, the Welsh Government suspended Target Rent Bands in 2020 and replaced them with a self- certification monitoring form.

#### RESOLVED -

- (1) T H A T the final Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2022/23 be approved as outlined below:

No.

	Proposed Budget 2022/23 £'000
Expenditure	
Supervision & Management	5,544
Repairs & Maintenance	3,727
Capital Financing Costs	4,963
Rent, Rates and Taxes and Other Charges	237
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	673
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	18,452
Income	
Dwelling Rents	(21,299)
Non Dwelling Rents	(162)
Interest	(5)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(545)
Contribution towards expenditure	(303)
Grant Income	(205)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	11,077
Working Balance Brought Forward as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	(12,000)
Working Balance Carried Forward as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	(923)

(2) T H A T an average rent increase of 2.75%, as set out in paragraphs 2.8-2.10 of the report, be approved.

(3) T H A T the increase suggested for other services, as set out in paragraphs 2.11-2.24 of the report, be approved.

(4) T H A T the following charges for 2022/23 financial year be approved:

<b>50 Week Basis</b>	<b>Current Charges</b>	<b>Proposed Charges</b>
Heating	£7.87 per week	£7.45 per week
Warden Housing Management	£10.92 per week	£12.01 per week
VCAS:		
- Monitoring	£1.29 per week	£1.29 per week
- Maintenance	£2.20 per week	£2.20 per week
Grounds Maintenance	£1.34 per week	£1.35 per week
Cleaning of Communal Areas	£2.52 per week	£2.57 per week
Lighting of Communal Areas	£1.63 per week	£1.68 per week

No.

Laundry Facilities	£0.48 per week	£0.38 per week
Window Cleaning	£0.17 per week	£0.18 per week
Lift Maintenance	£1.07 per week	£0.53 per week
Door Entry	£0.44 per week	£0.25 per week
Intercom	£0.92 per week	£0.84 per week
CCTV	£0.92 per week	£0.94 per week
Sewerage Treatment Plants	£374.73 per annum	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2022/23
Cesspool Emptying	£362.00 per annum	Based on the Rateable Value (RV) from the Welsh Water Schedule 2022/23

(5) T H A T all changes to rents and service charges be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, with the first week of April being a non-chargeable rent week and that increase notices be sent to tenants 28 days in advance of the new charges coming into effect.

#### Reason for decisions

(1-5) In order that charges are approved, new rent levels are set within the specified Welsh Government guidelines and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.

#### 906 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 AND UPDATE FOR 2021/22 (REF) –

The interim report provided an update on the Council's Treasury Management operations for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. All activities were in accordance with the Council's approved strategy on Treasury Management. Details of monies borrowed and repaid and those invested were outlined in the report.

The report presented the proposed 2022/23 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council ensured that the Prudential Code was complied with, which had been developed by CIPFA as a professional code of practice. To demonstrate the Council had fulfilled these objectives, the Code set out prudential indicators that should be used and the factors that must be taken into account. These were shown in Appendix 1 to the report as part of the Strategy.

No.

The Council also had a legal requirement to comply with the Welsh Government Guidance on Investments and had taken this into consideration when developing the Strategy.

Capital expenditure when financed by long term debt incurred two elements of cost, interest on and repayment of the principal sum borrowed. The resources the Council must put aside in each year to repay the principal sum borrowed were known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and the Council's policy for calculation was detailed in the report.

The Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2022/23 was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Council would formally adopt the new CIPFA 2021 edition of The Prudential Code published in December 2021 together with the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Treasury Management interim report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the policy for making Minimum Revenue Provision in 2022/23 be approved.

(3) T H A T the proposed 2022/23 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy be approved including the following specific resolutions (detailed in Appendix 1):

- The Authorised Limit for External Debt be set at £223.352m for 2021/22, £241.693m for 2022/23, £274.792m for 2023/24 and £288.151m for 2024/25.
- The Operational Boundary for External Debt be set at £212.948m for 2021/22, £230.785m for 2022/23, £264.384m for 2023/24 and £277.743m for 2024/25.
- The Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority within the total Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary as estimated for individual years to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities.
- An upper limit is set on its fixed interest rate exposures of £148.716m for 2021/22, for 2022/23 of £172.311m, for 2023/24 of £208.615m and for 2024/25 of £230.455m of its net outstanding principal sum on its borrowings / investments.
- An upper limit is set on its variable interest rate exposures of £0 for 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 of its net outstanding principal sum on its investments.
- An upper limit of £10m for 2021/22, £10m for 2022/23, £10m in 2023/24 and £10m in 2024/25 is set for total principal sums invested for over 364 days.
- The amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate for 2022/23 be set as

No.

	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>
Under 12 months	20%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

- The Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- The Treasury Management Policy set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

(4) T H A T the formal adoption of the new CIPFA 2021 edition of The Prudential Code together with the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes be approved.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To present the Treasury Management Interim Report.

(2) To agree the basis of the Minimum Revenue Provision calculation for 2022/23.

(3) The Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy is prepared as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

(4) Approval of the adoption of the new CIPFA 2021 edition of The Prudential Code together with the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes is a statutory requirement.

907 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23 (REF) –

Cabinet had considered the report on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (Minute. No. C847 refers) and had referred the same to Council for consideration and approval. The report set out how the draft Annual Delivery Plan (Appendix A to the report) had been developed, the outcome of the consultation and the subsequent changes to the Plan. The Annual Delivery Plan for 2022-23 was aligned to the Council's four Well-being Objectives.

The Plan detailed the activities that would be undertaken in 2022-23 to deliver the Well-being Objectives. The actions in the ADP would also contribute to six cross-cutting themes; Project Zero, hardship, care and support, transformation, infrastructure and community capacity. The commitments within the Annual Delivery Plan would be reflected in Annual Service Plans together with service improvement targets which would detail how different Council services would contribute to the delivery of the four Well-being Objectives.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Delivery Plan for 2022/23, as set out in Cabinet Minute No. C847, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 be approved.

No.

Reason for decision

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

908 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN (REF) –

The report set out the Council's 30-year business plan for housing in support of the Council's continued Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) investment from Welsh Government (WG). WG required all Local Authorities with retained housing stock, to submit a fit for purpose annual Housing Business Plan, incorporating a detailed financial forecast in the form of a 30-year financial model. The Business Plan incorporated a forward statement from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, reflecting the work being undertaken during the pandemic and to continue to develop sustainable communities and deliver key services.

RESOLVED - T H A T the Housing Revenue Business Plan attached to the report to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Min no C851 be approved.

Reason for decision

To enable the submission of the above Plan to Welsh Government by the required deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

909 CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022 (REF) –

This was the final report for the second Population Needs Assessment (PNA) for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, following the first published in 2017. The PNA should be read alongside the complementary Well-being Assessments for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to gain a comprehensive understanding of the region.

The PNA was undertaken between May 2021 and March 2022 and provided an update of the 2017 report. Existing data and reports were used to inform the assessment, alongside dedicated engagement work in the form of surveys (for the public, children and young people, people in HMP Cardiff and professionals / providers) as well as focus groups.

A draft PNA had been considered by Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in January 2022.

Improvements in care and support services had been made across all population groups since the 2017 Population Needs Assessment, despite the challenges of COVID-19. COVID-19 had had a number of impacts, including increasing demand for services, especially mental health, and changing models of delivery for many services.

No.

RESOLVED – T H A T the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment 2022 as reported to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Min no C857 be approved.

Reason for decision

To meet the requirements of the statutory framework under which the Population Needs Assessment was produced.

910 NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELSH (VALE OF GLAMORGAN) ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES – NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES FOR WALES AND FOSTER WALES – ENHANCING GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND ENABLING (REF) –

Council was updated on the proposals for developing the governance for the National Adoption Service for Wales as it assumed responsibility for Foster Wales and to achieve agreement to signing the Joint Committee Agreement for the proposed Joint Committee.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the entering into an Agreement (“the Agreement”) (appended at Appendix 3 to the report) for the establishment of a Joint Committee for the National Adoption Service for Wales (“NAS”) as it assumed responsibility for Foster Wales be agreed.

(2) T H A T the Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility for Social Care and Health be the Council’s nominated representative as a voting member of the Joint Committee.

(3) T H A T Delegated Authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into the Agreement on behalf of the Council.

Reason for decisions

(1&3) Having regard to the proposals of Cabinet and Appendix 3 to the report to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February.2022 Minute no C858.

911 NON-DOMESTIC RATES – RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE RATES RELIEF (REF) –

Cabinet, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, had considered the report, the purpose of which was to confirm adoption of a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2022/2023 in respect of qualifying business premises within the Vale of Glamorgan area under discretionary relief powers in accordance with section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.



No.

The report brought to the attention of Cabinet the Council's discretionary powers to award non-domestic rates relief to businesses within the Council's area under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The report also drew attention to the proposed funding that would be provided by Welsh Government in order to support businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors throughout the Council's area.

The report proposed the adoption of a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2022-23 in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2022-23, as contained in the report to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Minute no C860, in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 be adopted.

(2) T H A T award relief to all qualifying businesses as in accordance with the Non-domestic Rates Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Guidance issued by the Welsh Government attached at Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Minute no C860 be agreed.

(3) T H A T award entitlement to eligible businesses following receipt of a valid application form be agreed.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) To enable a scheme to be adopted using discretionary relief powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for the provision of Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief for qualifying business premises within the Vale of Glamorgan area.

NB. Although there was no dissent, and the motion was agreed, Councillor Cave highlighted that she abstained from the vote.

912 TO SET THE COUNCIL TAX 2022-23 –

The Leader referred to the amended Council Tax resolution that had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting with it being

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T it be noted that at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Cabinet (the Executive) calculated the following amounts for the year 2022/23 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) 61,978 being the amount calculated by Cabinet (the Executive) in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council

No.

Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its council tax base for the year.

(b) Part of the Council's area

Barry	20,845
Colwinston	373
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	2,788
Dinas Powys	4,027
Ewenny	448
Llancarfan	479
Llandough	957
Llandow	432
Llanfair	382
Llangan	464
Llanmaes	252
Llantwit Major	4,317
Michaelston	229
Penarth	11,648
Pendoylan	356
Penllyn	1,062
Peterston-Super-Ely	551
St. Athan	1,524
St. Brides Major	1,418
St. Donats	210
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	236
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	726
Sully and Lavernock	2,591
Welsh St. Donats	321
Wenvoe	1,569
Wick	541

The Council Tax base for Rhose is 3,232.

being the amounts calculated by Cabinet (the Executive), in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(2) T H A T the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

No.

(a)	Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (d) and (2A) of the Act (including Town / Community Council Precepts totalling £3,270,081)	£410,130,189
(b)	Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a), (aa) and (c), and (3A) of the Act	£134,596,000
(c)	Amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.	£275,538,189
(d)	Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, its council tax reduction scheme, additional grant or special grant less certain Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Reliefs	£185,725,128
(e)	The amount at (2)(c) above less the amount at (2)(d) above, all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.	£1,449.11
(f)	Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.	£3,270,081

No.

- (g) Amount at (2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates. £1,396.35

(h) <u>Part of the Council's area</u>	<u>£</u>
Barry	1,455.95
Colwinston	1,436.83
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	1,474.66
Dinas Powys	1,427.12
Ewenny	1,445.85
Llancarfan	1,422.13
Llandough	1,439.14
Llandow	1,419.50
Llanfair	1,408.41
Llangan	1,419.57
Llanmaes	1,444.87
Llantwit Major	1,455.55
Michaelston	1,425.23
Penarth	1,478.88
Pendoylan	1,417.85
Penllyn	1,408.47
Peterston-Super-Ely	1,438.09
St. Athan	1,428.92
St. Brides Major	1,414.33
St. Donats	1,415.80
St. Georges and St. Brides-Super-Ely	1,420.33
St. Nicholas and Bonvilston	1,472.34
Sully and Lavernock	1,434.71
Welsh St. Donats	1,418.16
Wenvoe	1,420.44
Wick	1,407.44

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

## (i) Part of the Council's Area

## Valuation Bands

£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry	970.63	1,132.41	1,294.18	1,455.95	1,779.49	2,103.04	2,426.58	2,911.90	3,397.22
Colwinston	957.89	1,117.53	1,277.18	1,436.83	1,756.13	2,075.42	2,394.72	2,873.66	3,352.60
Cowbridge with Llanblethian	983.11	1,146.96	1,310.81	1,474.66	1,802.36	2,130.06	2,457.77	2,949.32	3,440.87
Dinas Powys	951.41	1,109.98	1,268.55	1,427.12	1,744.26	2,061.40	2,378.53	2,854.24	3,329.95
Ewenny	963.90	1,124.55	1,285.20	1,445.85	1,767.15	2,088.45	2,409.75	2,891.70	3,373.65
Llancarfan	948.09	1,106.10	1,264.12	1,422.13	1,738.16	2,054.19	2,370.22	2,844.26	3,318.30
Llandough	959.43	1,119.33	1,279.24	1,439.14	1,758.95	2,078.76	2,398.57	2,878.28	3,357.99
Llandow	946.33	1,104.06	1,261.78	1,419.50	1,734.94	2,050.39	2,365.83	2,839.00	3,312.17
Llanfair	938.94	1,095.43	1,251.92	1,408.41	1,721.39	2,034.37	2,347.35	2,816.82	3,286.29
Llangan	946.38	1,104.11	1,261.84	1,419.57	1,735.03	2,050.49	2,365.95	2,839.14	3,312.33
Llanmaes	963.25	1,123.79	1,284.33	1,444.87	1,765.95	2,087.03	2,408.12	2,889.74	3,371.36
Llantwit Major	970.37	1,132.09	1,293.82	1,455.55	1,779.01	2,102.46	2,425.92	2,911.10	3,396.28
Michaelston	950.15	1,108.51	1,266.87	1,425.23	1,741.95	2,058.67	2,375.38	2,850.46	3,325.54
Penarth	985.92	1,150.24	1,314.56	1,478.88	1,807.52	2,136.16	2,464.80	2,957.76	3,450.72
Pendoylan	945.23	1,102.77	1,260.31	1,417.85	1,732.93	2,048.01	2,363.08	2,835.70	3,308.32
Penllyn	938.98	1,095.48	1,251.97	1,408.47	1,721.46	2,034.46	2,347.45	2,816.94	3,286.43
Peterston-Super-Ely	958.73	1,118.51	1,278.30	1,438.09	1,757.67	2,077.24	2,396.82	2,876.18	3,355.54
Rhoose	930.90	1,086.05	1,241.20	1,396.35	1,706.65	2,016.95	2,327.25	2,792.70	3,258.15
St.Athan	952.61	1,111.38	1,270.15	1,428.92	1,746.46	2,064.00	2,381.53	2,857.84	3,334.15
St.Brides Major	942.89	1,100.03	1,257.18	1,414.33	1,728.63	2,042.92	2,357.22	2,828.66	3,300.10
St.Donats	943.87	1,101.18	1,258.49	1,415.80	1,730.42	2,045.04	2,359.67	2,831.60	3,303.53
St.Georges & St.Brides-Super-Ely	946.89	1,104.70	1,262.52	1,420.33	1,735.96	2,051.59	2,367.22	2,840.66	3,314.10
St.Nicholas and Bonvilston	981.56	1,145.15	1,308.75	1,472.34	1,799.53	2,126.71	2,453.90	2,944.68	3,435.46
Sully and Lavernock	956.47	1,115.89	1,275.30	1,434.71	1,753.53	2,072.36	2,391.18	2,869.42	3,347.66
Welsh St.Donats	945.44	1,103.01	1,260.59	1,418.16	1,733.31	2,048.45	2,363.60	2,836.32	3,309.04
Wenvoe	946.96	1,104.79	1,262.61	1,420.44	1,736.09	2,051.75	2,367.40	2,840.88	3,314.36
Wick	938.29	1,094.68	1,251.06	1,407.44	1,720.20	2,032.97	2,345.73	2,814.88	3,284.03

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1/1A) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(3) That it be noted that for the year 2 the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

£	Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	201.41	234.97	268.54	302.11	369.25	436.38	503.52	604.22	704.92

(4) T H A T, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3) above , The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council , in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23.

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands									
	£	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Barry		1,172.04	1,367.38	1,562.72	1,758.06	2,148.74	2,539.42	2,930.10	3,516.12	4,102.14
Colwinston		1,159.30	1,352.50	1,545.72	1,738.94	2,125.38	2,511.80	2,898.24	3,477.88	4,057.52
Cowbridge with Llanblethian		1,184.52	1,381.93	1,579.35	1,776.77	2,171.61	2,566.44	2,961.29	3,553.54	4,145.79
Dinas Powys		1,152.82	1,344.95	1,537.09	1,729.23	2,113.51	2,497.78	2,882.05	3,458.46	4,034.87
Ewenny		1,165.31	1,359.52	1,553.74	1,747.96	2,136.40	2,524.83	2,913.27	3,495.92	4,078.57
Llancarfan		1,149.50	1,341.07	1,532.66	1,724.24	2,107.41	2,490.57	2,873.74	3,448.48	4,023.22
Llandough		1,160.84	1,354.30	1,547.78	1,741.25	2,128.20	2,515.14	2,902.09	3,482.50	4,062.91
Llandow		1,147.74	1,339.03	1,530.32	1,721.61	2,104.19	2,486.77	2,869.35	3,443.22	4,017.09
Llanfair		1,140.35	1,330.40	1,520.46	1,710.52	2,090.64	2,470.75	2,850.87	3,421.04	3,991.21
Llangan		1,147.79	1,339.08	1,530.38	1,721.68	2,104.28	2,486.87	2,869.47	3,443.36	4,017.25
Llanmaes		1,164.66	1,358.76	1,552.87	1,746.98	2,135.20	2,523.41	2,911.64	3,493.96	4,076.28
Llantwit Major		1,171.78	1,367.06	1,562.36	1,757.66	2,148.26	2,538.84	2,929.44	3,515.32	4,101.20
Michaelston		1,151.56	1,343.48	1,535.41	1,727.34	2,111.20	2,495.05	2,878.90	3,454.68	4,030.46
Penarth		1,187.33	1,385.21	1,583.10	1,780.99	2,176.77	2,572.54	2,968.32	3,561.98	4,155.64
Pendoylan		1,146.64	1,337.74	1,528.85	1,719.96	2,102.18	2,484.39	2,866.60	3,439.92	4,013.24
Penllyn		1,140.39	1,330.45	1,520.51	1,710.58	2,090.71	2,470.84	2,850.97	3,421.16	3,991.35
Peterston-Super-Ely		1,160.14	1,353.48	1,546.84	1,740.20	2,126.92	2,513.62	2,900.34	3,480.40	4,060.46
Rhose		1,132.31	1,321.02	1,509.74	1,698.46	2,075.90	2,453.33	2,830.77	3,396.92	3,963.07
St.Athan		1,154.02	1,346.35	1,538.69	1,731.03	2,115.71	2,500.38	2,885.05	3,462.06	4,039.07
St.Brides Major		1,144.30	1,335.00	1,525.72	1,716.44	2,097.88	2,479.30	2,860.74	3,432.88	4,005.02
St.Donats		1,145.28	1,336.15	1,527.03	1,717.91	2,099.67	2,481.42	2,863.19	3,435.82	4,008.45
St.Georges & St.Brides-Super-Ely		1,148.30	1,339.67	1,531.06	1,722.44	2,105.21	2,487.97	2,870.74	3,444.88	4,019.02
St.Nicholas and Bonvilston		1,182.97	1,380.12	1,577.29	1,774.45	2,168.78	2,563.09	2,957.42	3,548.90	4,140.38
Sully and Lavernock		1,157.88	1,350.86	1,543.84	1,736.82	2,122.78	2,508.74	2,894.70	3,473.64	4,052.58
Welsh St.Donats		1,146.85	1,337.98	1,529.13	1,720.27	2,102.56	2,484.83	2,867.12	3,440.54	4,013.96
Wenvoe		1,148.37	1,339.76	1,531.15	1,722.55	2,105.34	2,488.13	2,870.92	3,445.10	4,019.28
Wick		1,139.70	1,329.65	1,519.60	1,709.55	2,089.45	2,469.35	2,849.25	3,419.10	3,988.95

No.

- (5) T H A T discount for prompt payment of the Council Tax be not granted.
- (6) T H A T the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.
- (7) T H A T notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Reason for decisions

- (1-7) In order to set the Council Tax for 2022-23.

913 DRAFT RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C758, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

914 DRAFT RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES (GENERAL) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2022 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C771, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

915 DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2021-2026 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C809, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

No.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

916 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN PETITION SCHEME (REF) –

RESOLVED –T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C817, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

917 FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 (REF) –

RESOLVED –T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C840, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

918 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 AND FINAL CAPITAL PROPOSALS 2022/23 TO 2026/27 (53EF) –

RESOLVED –T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C841, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

919 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C842, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.



No.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

920 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 AND UPDATE FOR 2021/22 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C843, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

921 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A NON TREASURY SERVICE INVESTMENT STRATEGY, THE INVESTMENT AND GROWTH FUND (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C845, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

922 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C847, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

No.

923 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C851, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

924 CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022 (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C857, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

925 NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELSH (VALE OF GLAMORGAN) ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES – NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICES FOR WALES AND FOSTER WALES – ENHANCING GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND ENABLING (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C858, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

926 NON-DOMESTIC RATES – RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE RATES RELIEF (REF) –

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure (Cabinet Minute No. C860, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (as set out in Section 14.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution) be noted.

No.

Reason for decision

The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.

927 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.18 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION –

The following responses to Member questions as contained within the agenda were presented:

(i) **Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson**

What progress has been made on the provision of an Active Travel Route between Dinas Powys and Barry?

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

In relation to the Active Travel Route proposals between Dinas Powys and Barry in 2021/22 officers had undertaken the following activities:

- A Flood Consequences Assessment,
- A Land Ownership investigation,
- An Options Appraisal of onward Active Travel routes into Cardiff and
- A Review of previous work to date.

I can advise that a consultation exercise on the possible options for the Active Travel Route is due to take place within the next 8 weeks. Then, dependant on the Welsh Government funding available for any chosen route, the Scheme can then be taken forward to concept design from April 2022.

**Supplemental**

Councillor Dr. Johnson enquired as to what Welsh Government's funding proposals for the route and timescales were.

Councillor King, in response, advised that he would make enquiries and respond accordingly to Councillor Johnson.

(ii) **Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson**

What discussions have taken place between the Council and other organisations regarding providing support for Ukrainian refugees?

No.

### **Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

I would firstly like to pass on my personal thoughts to the Ukrainian people who are suffering beyond imaginable hardship and terror, and to express my utter contempt for the barbaric actions of the Russian President. Like all of us at this meeting I cannot understand how such atrocities are able to take place in Europe in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council shares the global community's outrage at the deeply upsetting and completely unprovoked attacks on the people of Ukraine and will do whatever we can to support those displaced by the conflict.

In recent days the Home Secretary has announced a raft of new measures, including temporary visa concessions, designed to help family members of British nationals living in Ukraine and Ukrainians with no family connection to the UK.

The Authority has had initial discussions with the Home Office, alongside other Welsh Local Authorities and Welsh Government Ministers, and will continue to work with local partners to understand the emerging detail of these new schemes, including both the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine.

I hope that a diplomatic solution can be found to end this conflict, however, unless targeted sanctions prove effective in ending the Russian invasion, we will continue to assist those desperately seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

As it has repeatedly demonstrated through its commitment to refugees from both the Syrian conflict and, more recently, the Afghan crisis, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is willing to play its part to support those in need and will consider how it can best do that in combination with Welsh and UK Governments. Officers have spoken with and will continue to speak with the Home Office and the Council would continue to work with its partners and other Local Authorities in Wales.

### **Supplemental**

Councillor Dr. Johnson in recognising the rapidly changing position enquired as to whether Cardiff Airport could be a potential entry base for refugees coming to Wales and whether there was anything else the Council could do to support the refugees.

In response the Leader stated that he would look into the suggestion of the use of Cardiff Airport and advised that if there was anything further the Council could do, it would.

No.

(iii) **Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson**

Can it be confirmed that the works carried out on East Quay, Barry, have not caused and will not cause any damage whatsoever to the integrity of the lining in Graving Dock No.1, where that dock was filled with toxic material?

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services**

This is very similar to a public question that has also been submitted to this meeting, and I will answer in a similar fashion.

The outline planning permission for the Waterfront Regeneration contains conditions which have required potential contamination to be investigated and where found, remediated.

A Geotechnical Assessment of the area in question details that 'The backfilled graving dock is effectively a waste containment cell constructed with an engineered high density polyethylene liner having been backfilled with contaminated soils from within the Barry docks complex'.

A public open space scheme has been approved in this area, and that involves levels being raised (by 600mm with clean cover material) to ensure that the contained area is not disturbed. The conditions on this planning permission also require a verification report to be submitted and this will be required once remediation has been completed. A further condition requires a plan to be implemented regarding long term monitoring.

The Council's Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) reviews and assesses all information received as part of the planning process in relation to land contamination conditions on planning consents. Should any concerns be raised that the developer has breached the planning conditions then the Council's Planning Enforcement Team would investigate such matters, with support / technical guidance from SRS as necessary.

**Supplemental**

Councillor Dr. Johnson asked whether the Cabinet Member could confirm whose responsibility it was for the matter.

The Cabinet Member advised that it was the responsibility of the developers which would be monitored and any breaches would be considered by SRS and the Council's enforcement team.

(iv) **Question from Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson**

As we approach what we hope is the end of the pandemic, how does the Council plan to capture the learning made in the past two years so that we can be better prepared for future waves or pandemics?

No.

### **Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of our Council colleagues for their tremendous work throughout what has been a difficult and tumultuous two years. In particular, to the Council's Emergency Planning team who have coordinated the organisation's response in line with our Emergency Planning procedures, as well as all our front-line staff who have continued to deliver in challenging circumstances it has been difficult but the Council had learned a lot.

However, this period has been an emergency like no other, and we have seen commitment, dedication and ingenuity across every Council service.

You will recall that a Coronavirus Recovery Strategy was adopted in the autumn of 2020, at a time when recovery period was thought to be emerging. That work reflected the significant learning to that point, including the results of a staff survey.

The contents of that Strategy remain relevant and has been incorporated in the Council's two subsequent Annual Delivery Plans which assist in the progress of the Corporate Plan.

During the production of the ADP, a range of things have been considered, and the organisation's pandemic response has been a key driver. You will note that the six themes have been used in developing the ADP and that we have considered them earlier this evening, and acknowledged their particular relevance to the pandemic, as well as other factors affecting our communities at the current time

We have also conducted a review of the Council's pandemic response via the Emergency Planning process to ensure the lessons learnt are reflected in these processes.

We are currently contributing to discussions with our partners and whilst there were strong links before, they have been strengthened during the pandemic. As time progresses and the coronavirus diminishes its influence on our lives, this will see us move our focus to a different range of public health, wellbeing and social care issues. This is being progressed, for example, via the Public Services Board where there is a standing agenda item for partners to share experiences and this is being reflected in the Wellbeing Plan born out of the recently completed Wellbeing Assessment. We meet with Health colleagues on a fortnightly basis.

There are discussions underway at regional and at national level, and the Council will contribute to the national coronavirus enquiry and reflect on any findings emerging from that enquiry.

Organisational learning is clearly an important part of how we continue to improve services and our readiness for the future and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act has introduced a new self-assessment duty which impacts on our progress. This will provide the mechanism for capturing and sharing learning, to feed into service plans for delivery on an annual basis.

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We have learned a lot and will share for the future for example with Project Zero we are looking at the changes that have been brought about by the pandemic. Under Community capacity we are building on the amazing volunteering and community spirit seen during the pandemic and are using the learning from the coronavirus regarding hardship experienced by many of our citizens. There have been immense challenges within social care and we continue to work with voluntary organisations one example of this being work with the foodbanks and the Food Pod in Penarth amongst others. We will also be considering the infrastructure and we will need to review the ADP Plan. There is so much that we have learnt and it is so varied and the pandemic has changed the way people work.

### **Supplemental**

Councillor Dr. Johnson queried how the Council would be capturing the information going forward.

The Leader in response advised that the Council had already been contacted, by the Chair of the Inquiry into the pandemic, for information. The ADP would also feed into Service Plans in order to deal with issues that came forward in the future. The Leader took the opportunity to reiterate his thanks for the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team which he said had not only included work in relation to the pandemic but in respect of recent flooding incidents and the storm that had taken place.

#### **(v) Question from Councillor G.D.D. Carroll**

Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the outcome of the recent parking surveys carried out on the Dochdwy estate in Llandough?

#### **Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

Thank you for the question which was submitted a few days ago, however, since doing that, you and I have had a chance to meet with Officers for a somewhat preliminary look at the survey results.

My Officers explained the assumptions made but that the video footage had not yet been fully considered and together, we made some initial assessments. I believe we left things with you; going to seek a meeting with the Community Council, aided by my Officers.

**No supplemental** was requested as Councillor Carroll indicated that things had moved on and that he would follow up as had been agreed.

#### **(vi) Question from Councillor G.D.D. Carroll**

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm if the current Administration supports plans for housing on the former Eagleswell School site in Llantwit Major?

No.

### **Reply from the Leader on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services**

The current position is that the Housing and Building Services has previously appropriated the site, within the LDP, in order to increase the Vale of Glamorgan Council's housing stock. This was in response to Welsh Government's directive for Councils to increase the scale and pace of their house building programmes, to meet the ever-increasing housing needs of their residents and the critical shortage of social housing in the Vale. There are currently 469 applicants on the Homes4U Waiting List in need of accommodation in Llantwit Major.

That said, I also fully appreciate the need for facilities to keep pace with the new housing sites. I am also aware of the feeling locally having liaised with the local Councillors who has been clear of the need for additional health facilities within the town.

I share his view and have already liaised with the Cardiff and Vale UHB on this issue. I see no reason why when the LDP is reviewed the site cannot be designated as a mixed-use site to include a Health Centre provision alongside housing or other community facilities such as extra Care. We will keep working with health to consider the site as part of their ongoing project.

### **No supplemental**

#### 928 PUBLIC QUESTIONS –

The following questions were submitted and replied to as shown, in accordance with the protocol agreed by Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

#### (i) **Question from Mrs. G. Davies-Jones**

We would like to purchase an electric delivery vehicle for our Pharmacy to deliver to vulnerable patients. However, we would have nowhere to charge the vehicle overnight. Please can you advise on possible solutions to this problem? Could we possibly request a parking spot with charger off road to the side of the Pharmacy on Island Road?

### **Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

The Council, in conjunction with Cardiff City Region (CCR), had recently installed several electric taxi charging points and has plans for Public charging points to be installed in some 20 Council controlled public car parks throughout the Vale of Glamorgan in Summer 2022. We are also working to develop an on-street electric charging policy which should be completed by Spring 2022. This Policy would advise how the public can request installation or access on-street electric charging facilities. In the meantime I would suggest that you make contact with our officers to discuss your proposals in more detail.



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(ii) **Question from Mr. G. Davies**

Why is Porthkerry Road not residence only parking? I have been told it is because it's not close enough to High Street but I am sick to death of going out, mainly on a weekend and then not able to park anywhere outside or near my house. Surely the residents who pay a significant amount in Council Tax have a right to park near or outside their house. All other streets around High Street have residence only areas!

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

The Council had no legal duty to provide preferential on-street parking for residents, albeit this is generally accepted in residential areas as custom and practice where space is available. The Council is however sympathetic to residential areas that might be adversely impacted by visitor numbers such as in resort or town centre areas, and for this reason we introduced a new Resident Parking Controls Policy in July 2020. Details of the new policy can be found on the Council's website or through a telephone enquiry to our contact centre.

The Council has recently installed new resident only parking schemes under its new policy in various high visitor attraction areas. These were located near to the Council's coastal resort areas at Barry Island and Ogmores-by-Sea last summer in response to concerns raised over displacement parking into residential areas. It is proposed to review these new residential permit parking schemes after 12 months to understand any specific issues resulting from the new restrictions and policy.

The Council is currently recording requests for resident only parking in various other areas and I can confirm that Porthkerry Road is already included on the waiting list of schemes for future consideration as soon as suitable funding becomes available. However, I would advise that there is currently a significant waiting list of circa 100 locations and given the limited budget and resource available to implement such schemes, I regret that it is not possible at this stage to provide a timescale when such a provision can be provided along Porthkerry Road at this time.

I would also like to clarify that the implementation of a Resident Permit parking scheme will not necessarily enable residents to always park within their street, and will certainly not guarantee parking close to specific household or property given the general extent of car ownership within households on residential terraced streets, and the limited length of kerbside parking available to accommodate such parking.

However, I can assure you that when the budget becomes available to consider the request for a resident permit parking scheme in more detail along Porthkerry Road, then all residents on the road will be contacted to carry out informal consultation to obtain a consensus in accordance with the new policy.

(iii) **Question from Ms. K. Mottram**

Myself and my fellow neighbours have made many enquiries into the state of Barry in regards to the litter and dumping issues. We have been told many times that the Council are well aware of the issue and that more staff will be deployed to areas to

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clear the rubbish. To us, more is needed than to collect rubbish around the streets, especially as it's not possible to clear everything. We believe part of the issue is down to inadequate resources provided, e.g. the flimsy bags we are provided. In many counties across Wales residents use hard plastic bins with proper lids. Is there any plan for this? Going forward if you state you are aware of the issues there must be a plan to tackle the rubbish issue, especially as it is causing environmental issues as well as issues to people with disabilities that are often hindered by rubbish and bags in their pathway. Please can you inform us of the plan going forward with a timeline for completion please. If there is no plan yet, please explain why and what can and will be done. Best Wishes, the residents of High Street, Queen Street and Princes Street.

### **Reply from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport**

Whilst I am disappointed to hear of the problems you are all experiencing I would advise that there are no plans to use enclosed bins or change the existing recycling and waste receptacles that are currently used for kerbside collections. The Council's system aims to increase the quality of the recycling collected and reduce contamination levels. Increased contamination levels are often a problem with solid receptacles, such as wheeled bins, with rogue materials often placed at the bottom of the bins, only to be noticed when it is too late and the material has been deposited in the collection vehicle.

Our current collection arrangements may not satisfy all of the requirements for material contamination containment in all weathers but, in conjunction with excellent support from our residents, they have ensured that the Vale of Glamorgan is one of the best recycling authorities in the whole of the UK.

The Council recognises that misplaced bags can cause obstructions on footways, and I have asked that our collection staff are reminded to fold bags up and secure them as practicable as possible, after collection. Additionally, the litter and fly tipping issues will be highlighted to Neighbourhood Services staff and there will be a request for an increased staffing and enforcement officer presence in this area.

We are always more than happy to work with community groups with an aim of improving the local environment. Whilst the Council has a legal duty to maintain the cleanliness of the public highway, and will continue to do so, increasingly, we are having to rely more and more on the support of these groups, working with our staff in partnership, to improve the cleanliness of local areas to the standard expected by the community. This partnership working has the added bonus of raising awareness amongst communities of the impacts of litter and fly-tipping and instilling an ownership of the problem, thereby reducing it over time.

Should you and any of your neighbours wish to work with us on a project aimed at improving the specific cleanliness of your local area, our officers would be pleased to hear from you. You can do this via our contact centre by phone, letter or e-mail.

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(iv) **Question from Miss. N. Williams**

What is the update regarding model farm re-submitting development plans on the 17th? Is the development allowed to go ahead and when will the public know these details and where can all plans be viewed please.

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services**

The planning application for the development of a Business Park has, following the recent High Court judgement, been returned to the Council for a new decision which include a review and consideration of any viability information submitted by the applicants. The application will be presented back to Planning Committee for determination in due course but no date has yet been set, as new consultations are currently underway and will need to be considered fully prior to any recommendation to Committee.

All neighbours and individuals who previously commented on the application have been notified by letter and notices have been displayed on site and in the press, which invite any further representations to be made for consideration. The plans and relevant documents can be viewed on the Council's online planning register or members of the public can contact the planning department by phone or email for more information.

The Council has also received a Direction from Welsh Government restricting the grant of permission until it decides whether the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their decision.

(v) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry at a recent VOG meeting a member of the Planning Committee stated that he found the planning process confusing and went on to receive further training. How can the public have any faith in the Council to manage development in the Vale if its own Planning Committee members find it confusing, and following a letter from Welsh Govt recently confirming the Vale made an incorrect decision on the Biomass plant?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

All Members of the Council receive a comprehensive and full programme of training when they are elected as a Councillor and Members of Planning Committee are specifically given additional specific training on their role in decision making. The training is robust and is based on a framework provided by the Welsh Local Government Association and is used across Wales. This is supplemented with regular ongoing update training and development whereby Members are advised of changes to planning law and policy throughout their term. It is also the case that Members can access any further support or advice at any time should they require it and on many occasions one to one training is arranged, especially when any Member cannot attend a scheduled training session and I would assure you that **All**

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**Councillors** have a full package of information available to them whenever they require it.

However, it should be noted that Member training does not extend to giving Member's advice about their own personal developments or personal proposals and in such cases, they would be expected to seek their own professional advice on such matters in the same way as any member of the public or other developer.

Furthermore, Members of Planning Committee are not expected to be experts in planning law and policy. They are advised by qualified officers who provide detailed and thorough reports to Planning Committee which explain the planning considerations and legal background in each case and give clear reasons for their recommendations.

In respect of the Biomass plant, this was an extremely complex matter to determine and was a matter of judgement as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment was required at the time the decision was made for the 2015 application. As you know at that time the plant was approved as not requiring Environmental Impact Assessment, which aligned with Welsh Government's advice at that time who had concluded the same.

It is only as a result of the Council's proposed planning enforcement action that prompted the Welsh Government's Planning and Environment Decisions branch to make a decision and have now confirmed that an EIA is needed for the development as part of the developer's appeal against this Council's Enforcement Notice.

(vi) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry for months, there's been a collection of barriers and large storage containers at the bottom of Thompson Street. How much longer are we going to have to put up with this eyesore?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

I am advised that barriers and storage containers (2 x 14ft shipping containers) are actually located in a safe position along the side of the road on Dock View Road some 20 to 30 metres west of its junction with Thompson Street. The area is kept in a tidy and safe condition by Wales and West Utilities as required by the Council, and I am happy that no obstruction is being caused to traffic using this particular section of highway.

The barriers and storage containers belong to Wales and West Utilities who have permission to use this area from the Council for storage, whilst they are undertaking essential gas pipeline improvements and network upgrades within the Barry area. Wales and West Utilities have a statutory duty to maintain their gas networks and the Council consider it appropriate and important for safety reasons to support the company in this endeavour.

No.

The Wales and West Utilities team is currently working in Kingsland Crescent, a side street off of Dock View Road. All being well, its works will be completed after the barriers and cabin / compound will be removed from the highway on Dock View Road.

(vii) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry as we're being urged to join in with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, will the Vale be publishing guidance for residents who are organising street parties?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

Our Platinum Jubilee web page went live on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 on our Visit the Vale website.

The page gives Vale residents information on celebrations across the Country, the Beacon Lighting, what to think about when holding a Jubilee party plus how to apply for a street party road closure (where applicable).

Any further information required for Platinum Jubilee enquires can be e-mailed to our Events Officer.

(viii) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry does the Council think it is acceptable for a disabled person to wait years on a list to have a parking space outside their property?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

The Council has a very high demand for disabled parking spaces and limited budget to implement such facilities, leading to a significant waiting period for those applicants that qualify. Whilst we are not happy with the time that applicants have to wait, we do have a process where residents can apply for a disabled parking bay, whereas many other Councils do not.

The current position is that there are some 43 applications on the waiting list and the first 10 applications on this list will be progressed in the new financial year commencing in April 2022.

Due to the costs and administrative legal procedures that are needed to create disabled bays, the Council can only provide approximately 10 disabled parking places each financial year and within the budget available. I can also confirm that the allocations are made in strict chronological order in which the applications are received.

No.

However, saying that, within the current Policy there is a mechanism whereby the Council's Social Services department can request for a bay to be expedited, but this would only be as a result of a specific set of circumstances and in the most critical of cases.

I would conclude by advising that disabled parking bays, whilst provided in close proximity to the applicant's home address, are not solely set aside for individual persons but are available for use by anyone with a valid blue badge.

(ix) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry having seen the building work at East Quays and on the new public open space, what steps are the Council taking to ensure that the liner full of contaminated waste, remains intact?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

The outline planning permission for the Waterfront contains conditions which have required potential contamination to be investigated and where found, remediated. A Geotechnical Assessment of the area in question details that 'The backfilled graving dock is effectively a waste containment cell constructed with an engineered HDPE liner having been backfilled with contaminated soils from within the Barry docks complex'.

A public open space scheme has been approved in this area, and that involves levels being raised (by 600mm with clean cover material) to ensure that the contained area is not disturbed.

The conditions on this planning permission also require a verification report to be submitted and this will be required once remediation has been completed. A further condition requires a plan to be implemented regarding long term monitoring.

The Council's Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) reviews and assesses all information received as part of the planning process in relation to land contamination conditions on planning consents. Should any concerns be raised that the developer has breached the planning conditions then the Councils Planning Enforcement Team would investigate such matters, with support / technical guidance from SRS as necessary.

(x) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry when can we expect some progress on the outdoor gym at the leisure centre? It seems the area was quickly cleared and has now been left abandoned.

No.

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

I would confirm that we are extremely keen, together with our Leisure Management Partner, Legacy Leisure, to have this area operational as soon as possible.

Whilst orders for this project were placed last year, we have been advised that a certain air temperature is required for the new surface being laid for it to be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Unfortunately, the earliest time this temperature is likely to be regularly met is March 2022 and therefore this work is programmed to commence in the very near future, obviously dependent on the requisite weather conditions.

(xi) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry do the Council have any plans to look again at the parking restrictions on Barry Island? Specifically, the increase in the number of disabled parking spaces on the Esplanade? There are now very few spaces for visitors without disabled passes, and whilst it is very important for the disabled to be able to park close to the promenade and beach, the reality is that many of these spaces are not used in the off season period, when locals tend to visit the Island more - for walks, exercise, etc. We understand that local traders (we have no connections to local businesses) are unhappy about this and the detrimental impact on their customer numbers, and that a petition has been organised and presented to you. There are many locals who need to park close to the esplanade - parents with babies and young children, sea swimmers, those who may not be very mobile but not considered disabled. And there are many more who we could site, including the many volunteer litter picking groups, sports groups, etc. We realise that there is a pay and display car park, but the reality is that in these very challenging economic times when bills of all kinds are rocketing, it would be very helpful if the Council could look at this issue with fresh eyes. Please could you consider reducing the number of disabled parking bays for the off season period? This would show an understanding of the needs of many local residents and struggling businesses.

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

As you are aware, the Council introduced new parking restrictions throughout Barry Island last year which were implemented following a lengthy consultation exercise as part of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This exercise provided an opportunity for anybody to comment on, or object to, the proposals.

There were no concerns or objections received relating to the number of disabled bays being proposed as part of the scheme at that time. The Council's Cabinet subsequently authorised the proposed TRO scheme for Barry Island at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021 and as a consequence the revised parking restriction, including additional disabled bays, was implemented later in the year and we will not be altering that arrangement as requested.

No.

It is also the case that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to improving parking provision for blue badge holders throughout the Vale, including resort areas so that disabled persons can enjoy the many attractions on offer for their personal wellbeing. The purpose of the disabled blue badge scheme is to give greater access to local services by allowing badge holders to park near their destination either as a passenger or driver of a vehicle. The disabled parking bays on Friars Road are considered to offer the additional safe and convenient parking opportunity to blue badge holders to ensure they can access the various amenities on offer at Barry Island, as well as enjoy the scenic views afforded by the beach and coastline within this popular part of the Vale.

There is significant alternate on-street parking available for other motorists on surrounding roads who have the benefit of being able to walk a little further to access the many facilities and attractions on offer, as well as two large off-street car parks which have been provided by the Council to cater for parking demand at the popular Barry Island resort throughout the year and during various events which are programmed. There is also a regular train service that links Barry Island with other mainland services, as well as bus services and numerous safe active travel routes.

The Council does not provide parking for businesses or their employees at either Barry Island or any of its other resorts or town centre car parks. To do so would set an extremely difficult precedent throughout the Vale with numerous other businesses requesting similar favourable treatment which is both impracticable and inappropriate. The Council's car parks being for either visitors, tourists or shoppers to support sustainable economic growth for local business as well as employment.

However, as you may be aware, it has been our desire to help Barry Island be a thriving attraction, as it has become pretty much all year round. That being the case I feel we have achieved that as it is now an all year round resort. However, one consequence can, at times, be litter and general cleanliness and we do our best to manage the resort, but that has to be paid for and parking charging certainly assists with that expense.

I would remind you that we also trialled parking season tickets in some Coastal Resorts and our Country Parks and I am pleased to say that at the Cabinet, last Monday Cabinet supported my recommendation to cut the cost of Season tickets at our Coastal Resorts, including Barry Island, from £50 to £30 for 6 months and £100 down to £50 for the full year. This effectively offers residents, chance to visit every week for as long as they like for about £1.00 and which corresponds with the permit charges at the Country Parks. It is envisaged that this pricing change will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year.

This option may be of interest and benefit to local and regular visitors along with businesses and their employees who are looking for convenient and sustainable parking opportunity. Full details of these new season tickets will be available on the Council's website.

Following on from that what you may also know is that we are about to install a rising bollard and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system and Rivermouth



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car park Ogmore on Sea. This is the first such system for this Authority and it is envisaged that this will allow us to introduce an hourly scale of charges.

Furthermore, and although not part of the Fees & Charges Report, within our Capital Expenditure plans for 2022/23 and passed this evening funding is include for similar facilities at our Country Parks & Coastal car park so, we intend to introduce the same hourly scale for those car parks too, albeit it may be favourable to purchase a season ticket which could offer greater savings for regular visitors.

I trust that this answer addresses the issues raised and gives more flexibility than at present.

Finally, to cover another area you refer to and as you are well aware, the Council has previously provided dispensation to the car park charges in its Barry Island car parks for a limited number of organised litter pickers to encourage such activities in the interest of the resort and will continue to do this whilst volunteers are willing to participate.

However, despite such an arrangement I hope that you appreciate and understand that regrettably we cannot provide dispensation to all groups who make such a request and the reduction in charges may help to alleviate any such issues. Once again. I re-emphasise that the revenue from the car parks is essential to assist in the ongoing maintenance and management of these well-loved and heavily visited sites, as well as offset costs for other public amenities provided by the Council at its coastal resorts.

(xii) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry when will the Council be publishing a progress report on the plan to link Barry and Dinas with a walking and cycle path?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

I can advise that all work undertaken to date on this exciting potential active travel scheme to link Barry with Dinas Powys has recently been reviewed by Officers and a consultation exercise on the possible options for the active travel route is due to take place prior to Easter 2022. We would welcome any comments that Beautiful Barry may have on the possible options during this consultation.

(xiii) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry having been told by a Barry business owner that there have been 3 shop windows smashed in Holton Road, can the Council confirm that CCTV was in place and working and that a culprit(s) has been identified?

No.

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

CCTV is in place within the Holton Road area and I can confirm that the Police are investigating this criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Officers are working closely with the Police to assist on identifying individuals. As this is an ongoing Police investigation it would not be appropriate for the Council to comment further at this stage.

(xiv) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry following on from the rather inappropriate reply to our question about sewer discharges into the Old Harbour, where the Council said that as it was not done by them we should contact Welsh Water ourselves - will the Council reconsider their response considering they are the owners of this land, and the fact that the water is used by many children and adults for kayaking, paddle boarding and cold water swimming, amongst other things? The Vale of Glamorgan Council is the owner and in control of the land known as the "Old Harbour" which is situated within Barry. The Directorate of Environment and Housing are the department responsible for and in control of the Old Harbour in Barry on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Barry-Harbour.aspx#:~:text=About%20Barry%20Harbour,the%20Vale%20of%20Glamorgan%20Council>

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

It remains the case that Dwr Cymru - Welsh Water is the organisation responsible for all combined sewer discharges throughout the Vale, and should residents or others have any concerns regarding such discharges, then the appropriate course of action would be to raise these concerns directly with Dwr Cymru - Welsh Water as has previously been advised.

Furthermore, Natural Resources Wales has responsibility for water quality, particularly relating to bathing water quality and again if residents or others have any concerns regarding monitoring and sources of pollution, then contact should be made directly with NRW for example via their website.

In relation to water quality generally, I am pleased to advise that a previous report by NRW clarified that all bodies of water in Wales, including the Vale, met the 'good' or 'sufficient' standard of water quality when tested by NRW with Cold Knap, Barry being classified with "excellent" water quality. No designated bathing waters were classified as poor.

No.

(xv) **Question from Mrs. C. Ockerby**

On behalf of Beautiful Barry having been told that funding is in place for the skate park at the Knap, can the Council provide an update on timescales for work to be started and completed?

**Reply from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

Plans for a possible new Skate Park at the Knap are currently being prepared. Whilst the Council has reserved some match funding for this exciting project [as contained within the Capital Proposals Report agreed this evening] along with a contribution that has been kindly confirmed from the Richard Taylor Memorial Fund, additional external funding is still being sought. Until this external funding is confirmed, which we hope will be within the next few weeks, I am unable to make any firm commitments as to when the required work will start or be completed. This is, however, a project that is high on our agenda and something which we are most certainly prioritising.

929 MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR HAD DECIDED WERE URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matters which the Mayor had decided were urgent for the reason given beneath the minute headings be considered.

930 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A NON TREASURY SERVICE INVESTMENT STRATEGY, THE INVESTMENT AND GROWTH FUND (REF) – **(Matter which the Mayor had decided was urgent by reason of the need for Council to consider the views of the Governance and Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 with a view to introducing the scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.)**

Cabinet considered the above matter at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

The purpose of the report was to outline proposals for the introduction of a Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy in 2022/23 to Support Economic Regeneration and Growth in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the proposals for the Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy, which was intended to address opportunities identified in the Council's Recovery Strategy to support innovative business and economic regeneration, increase capital programme investment and focus on green jobs and green infrastructure.

The Economic Regeneration and Growth Fund was to be funded using £2.2m of the Economic Regeneration and Growth Fund Reserve and with provision for up to £10m Prudential Borrowing. The fund for Investment totals £12m with £200k earmarked for feasibility and due diligence costs and the initial costs associated with specialist Non Treasury Investment Advice.

No.

The Economic Regeneration and Growth Fund would be supported by a Strategic Project Board with Investment Decisions approved by Cabinet and regular reporting to Cabinet, Council and Governance and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The first call on any investment return should be repayment of debt and building up an earmarked reserve to mitigate the risks outlined in the risk management section in Appendix 1.

The Deputy Leader said it was an important report as it was sometimes clear what was needed in order to make a difference within a community but not always possible to find a relevant budget. When looking to tackle inequality or enhance economic growth in areas where Section 106 contributions were not available, having alternative funding sources for already developed areas was essential.

The Cabinet had resolved to recommend the following to Council for approval:

- “(1) T H A T the content of the report and Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy (Appendix 1) be noted and approved.**
- (2) T H A T the Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration.**
- (3) T H A T Cabinet recommends to Council that the proposed 2022/23 to 2024/25 Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy be approved.**
- (4) T H A T a Strategic Investment and Growth Project Board be established to support the implementation and operation of the Economic Regeneration and Growth Fund.**
- (5) T H A T the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be used in order for the Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy to be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 and Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, with any comments from Governance and Audit Committee referred directly to Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 for consideration.”**

RESOLVED – T H A T the Cabinet reference of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Min no C845 be noted and considered in conjunction with the urgent reference from the Governance and Audit Committee of 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 on the same matter.

#### Reason for decision

In order that the Council can consider the references together.

No.

931 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A NON TREASURY SERVICE INVESTMENT STRATEGY, THE INVESTMENT AND GROWTH FUND (REF) - **(Matter which the Mayor had decided was urgent by reason of the need for Council to consider the views of the Governance and Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 with a view to introducing the scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.)**

Cabinet, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 had referred the report to the Governance and Audit Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 with the request that the Governance and Audit Committee's views be considered by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 with a view to introducing the scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022..

Councillor Dr. Johnson commented that it was good to see the Council looking at investments with positive social benefits, and he was in agreement with the governance model. However, it was unclear as to why the Council had chosen to change its policy now, when possibilities such as this were available over the past couple of years. In reply, the Operational Manager advised that this proposal had come out as some of the points that were raised as part of the Council's Recovery Strategy, but it had taken some time to be brought forward and had been delayed by officer capacity.

Councillor Wilson stated that he welcomed this strategy, but he had some concerns as this needed to be timely and could be a very bureaucratic process. Therefore, this needed to be very carefully managed by the Council, especially as the 5-case model approach was being adopted. The Council also needed to be very specific with what it wanted to achieve and how this would be measured. It was also critical for more work to be carried out in relation to the methodology to be used and in relation to the time aspect.

The Chair, Councillor Carroll, queried whether any analysis had been carried out on the potential impacts that rising interest rates could have on the strategy, which was a concern given the likely inflation situation. In response, the Operational Manager clarified that some very low level sensitivity analysis around indicative rates had been undertaken. It would also be important for sensitivity analysis on interest rates to be built into any business cases that had been put forward. The Operational Manager advised that there was some detail in the report around the performance management regime, but it may be that a traffic light system could be employed to alert Members if there were any issues. It was important to recognise that the Council's usual approach was to borrow on a fixed rate basis, which helped guard against fluctuations in interest rates. In addition, the Council's interest rate projections would be within the guidance that had been received from the treasury management advisors. The Operational Manager also advised that specialist property and investment management expertise would need to be utilised as part of this strategy and the management of these investments.

Governance and Audit Committee resolved –

**“(1) T H A T the contents of The Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy be noted.**

No.

**(2) T H A T Council be advised of the comments and observations of the Governance and Audit Committee, these being:**

- **Concern that this may lead to something overly bureaucratic so requires specific clarity around the timing aspect, what the Council's investments aim to achieve and how success will be measured;**
- **For more work to be carried out around the methodology of how investments will be made;**
- **Concern with the potential impact on investments and assets of future rises to Interest Rates.”**

Council, have considered the two references

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be noted.

(2) T H A T the proposed 2022/23 to 2024/25 Non Treasury Service Investment Strategy as reported to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Min no C845 be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the comments contained in the reference.

(2) To allow the Non Treasury Service Investment and Growth Fund to be implemented for 2022/23 and having regard to the report to Cabinet of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Min no C845.