

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 5TH DECEMBER, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 6TH OCTOBER, 2022

“C95 DWR CYMRU WELSH WATER CONSULTATION ON THE DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (DWMP) (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The report sought Cabinet approval for a Council-wide response to the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) consultation on their Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) for Wales.

The DWMP was a 25-year plan with reviews to be held every 5 years. DCWW’s intention was to publish the first cycle of this plan at the end of March 2023, and they were seeking views as part of the consultation process.

The Plan considered how DCWW intended to manage future challenges brought about by population growth, urban creep and climate change. The Plan set out DCWW’s preferred approach, to maximise the benefits they could deliver for both customers and the environment at the same time. The Plan proposed that DCWW would initially concentrate on the places with the worst levels of sewer flooding and the greatest environmental sensitivity.

The Consultation document contained some 30 questions, most of which were in a closed, yes / no type format. Officers had endeavoured to answer as many questions as possible although some questions were not strictly relevant as they were directed at households. For at least one question, more detail was required than it was possible to provide within the design and layout of the questionnaire, and for this reason it was suggested that a supplementary letter of response be provided to the questionnaire in the name of the Leader of the Council. In addition, Officers would seek meetings with DCWW officials to discuss, in particular, their plans to significantly reduce or eliminate future untreated sewage discharges into our seas, rivers and local land environments.

It should be noted that in the Plan, DCWW had not identified the need for additional improvement schemes within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 7th October, 2022 and this unfortunately precluded further consideration of the responses by Scrutiny Committees, therefore it was requested that use of the Council's Urgency Procedure be agreed.

Councillor Wilson referred to paragraph 1.4 of the Report which discussed the long term challenges that both Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and the Authority faced in the Vale of Glamorgan which needed to be assessed in partnership.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H AT the contents of this report, together with the draft consultation responses at Appendix 1, be agreed for submission to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
- (2) T H A T the content of the supplementary response letter attached at Appendix 2 to the report be agreed for submission to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
- (3) T H A T it be agreed that the covering letter be sent to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and that Officers engage directly with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to encourage ongoing dialogue around future wastewater management and environmental protection.
- (4) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in section 15.14 of the Council’s Constitution be exercised in relation to Resolutions (1) – (3) above.**

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable the Council to respond to the Consultation on The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
- (2) To ensure that the Council has the opportunity to express its views in detail in respect to the threat of sewage discharges on both land and water environments in the Vale of Glamorgan to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
- (3) To assist in ensuring that the Council's continued interests in reducing and, at some point, eliminating sewage discharges into the local environment are best considered.
- (4) To enable responses to the consultation to be returned to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water by the closure date of 7th October, 2022.”**