

No.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 15th July, 2021.

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor M.R. Wilson (Chairman); Councillor Mrs. P. Drake (Vice-Chairman); Councillors: G.D.D. Carroll, G.A. Cox, R. Crowley, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, Dr. I.J. Johnson and Ms. S. Sivagnanam.

Also, present: Councilors N. Moore (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) and P.G. King (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport).

241 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic Services Officer advised that the meeting would be live streamed on the internet and recorded for archive purposes.

242 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.W. Thomas.

243 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

244 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

245 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (REF) –

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation drew attention to the report which provided a high level overview of the current position regarding coronavirus and the Council's arrangements to respond and recover from the pandemic. Since the despatch of the agenda the officer took the opportunity to provide an update of the current position and advised Members that current data had been populated in the chat function for Members to consider as and when they wished to do so. Committee was however advised, that the current 7 day rolling figures as of the day of the meeting were that 167 new cases of Coronavirus had been

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confirmed for the Vale of Glamorgan equating to 125 per 100,000 of the population with 3.6% of the tests being positive.

The picture for Wales was reported as 1,743 new cases in the last 7 days with a rate of 150.4 per 100,000 of the population and 5.2% of tests reporting positive results. As the picture was rapidly changing, Councillor Dr. Johnson enquired as to whether any further local information had been received regarding specific age groups being affected with regard to the current infection rates and what intentions there were with regard to supporting local businesses with undertaking risk assessments. Public Health All Wales Tableau data provided a picture which confirmed a higher prevalence of cases in younger age groups and the Head of Service agreed to extract some of the detail and forward the information to Members of the Committee. In referring to businesses, it was noted that Shared Regulatory Services did indeed provide some advice, but that information was also available on the Welsh Government's website that businesses could follow regarding risk assessments. In response to the Chairman's question as to whether there was any information in relation to the rumour of plans to provide over the 50s with a third vaccine and / or 16 to 17-year olds; with regard to the booster programme, the Head of Service stated he was aware planning work was underway but would seek more detail for Members' information. In respect of vaccines for 16 to 17-year olds a statement was expected from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation imminently. The Leader commented that no specific decision regarding a booster programme had as yet been made and with regard to vaccinations for secondary school children the current thinking was not to vaccinate due to the fact that the likelihood was they would not have the illness to such an extent as older age groups may have. The vaccination roll out was still taking place, with the Leader urging those eligible to arrange to have the vaccination as soon as possible.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the report and the Appendix be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

246 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE (REF) –

The report attached to the reference from Cabinet of 5th July, 2021 provided the Committee with details of the progress throughout 2020/21 in respect of the five objectives listed and the additional targets contained within plan for 2019/22. It was noted that the COVID 19 pandemic had meant that some actions had been delayed however, others had been accelerated to reflect the urgency of certain asset related decisions. The Head of Service further advised that the capacity within the Estates Team had had to be reprioritised and considerable amounts of work had been undertaken with partners, referring to the work in relation to accommodation for the mass vaccination roll outs and the housing and distribution

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of PPE equipment. Councillor Dr. Johnson enquired as to how the Council would move forward with the 2022 / 2025 programme and whether there was also a strategy for accommodation usage going forward and the wider economic impact on communities when making rationalising decisions in respect of the Council's estates. The Head of Service in response stated that the current three-year plan was due to come to an end in the current financial year which would be updated and include a revised action plan. There was also an agreement with Health for use of Holm View and when it was no longer required further discussions for usage would be held. Currently the Council, in her view, was not in a position to consider and plan the rationalisation until the longer-term impact of staff working from home had been considered. The current survey undertaken with staff had shown that most employees would prefer a hybrid approach going forward with some days being in attendance in the office and others working from home.

Councillor John drew Committee's attention to the two assets in Llantwit that had been handed over to GVS i.e. the youth centre and WIVVIC, and had worked out extremely well.

Following a query from Councillor Driscoll regarding the length of time taken for the Nell's Point former toilet block to be leased, the Head of Service advised that the lease had indeed been agreed and that she understood a planning application was to be made, however, the issues the hospitality industry had faced as a result of the pandemic had no doubt added to the delay.

Councillor Ms. Sivagnanam, having regard to the Kymin, queried if the Council could invest in the property in the short term similarly to the control the Council had now taken in respect of the Pier Pavilion. The Head of Service advised that a project team was already in place and were currently looking at the options for the site as a high priority. Councillor Ms. Sivagnanam subsequently requested that local ward members be included in any discussions going forward regarding the Kymin.

The Chairman sought clarity on the current position with regard to South Lodge and whether a programme of events for the Autumn was being considered for the Pier Pavilion. It was agreed that further information in relation to the opening of South Lodge would be sought for Members' information and that a team were currently looking at a programme of events having regard to Welsh Government social distancing restrictions.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report be noted with the comments made at the meeting as below referred to the relevant officer as appropriate and the responses to queries raised forwarded to Members of the Committee for information:

- South Lodge – the date when it was likely to open;
- That Councillors Ms. Sivagnanam and N.C. Thomas as the Local Ward Members for The Kymin be consulted on any options to be identified for the use of The Kymin;

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- Pier Pavilion – that an events programme when prepared be forwarded to Members for information.

Reason for recommendation

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

247 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21 (REF) –

The report, which had been referred to the Committee by Cabinet for consideration, advised that the year-end revenue position was breakeven after net transfers to reserves of £12.206m, made up of £946k drawn from the Council Fund and £13.152m transferred into specific reserves. The Council Fund at 31st March, 2021 stood at £11.868m. It was noted the figures in the report were provisional and were to be considered by Governance and Audit Committee at the end of July with a view to completion for approval by Council by the current timeline of the end of September.

Both Councillors John and Dr. Johnson took the opportunity to thank the Head of Service and her team for an excellent detailed report and the work undertaken to date in difficult times with the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and the work that had to be undertaken as a result.

Councillor Dr. Johnson however enquired as to whether there were any strings attached to the Council Tax loss of income monies received from Welsh Government (WG) and how it would affect the Council's Council Tax collection rates going forward. Also, were there any proposals for the use of the underspend of £7m on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)? The Council Tax monies had come in from WG later in the year as a one-off payment and there were no particular strings attached should the Council be able to collect outstanding monies going forward. In relation to the HRA, it had been a large change as at the end of November it had been hoped spend on the Capital Programme could have been picked up but that was not to be the case. Also, although there were rent arrears in the year these had not been as high as allowed for but going forward it was important that rent setting and the business plan were reviewed as a result.

In conclusion the Chair commented that in his view the Council had been right to be cautious and hold decent reserves, particularly having regard to the impact of the pandemic and also echoed the previous comments in respect of the report from the team being excellent in detail and clear.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be noted.

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- (2) T H A T the Section 151 Officer and the Finance Team be thanked for an excellent report and in particular its clear content.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and the hard work undertaken by the Finance Team.

248 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY, 2021 (REF) –

The Head of Service, in presenting the report which had been referred by Cabinet for the Committee's consideration, drew attention to the fact that confirmation had been received from Welsh Government that funding to cover some of the issues faced by the pandemic would be received up to 30th September, 2021. However, it was noted that the revenue position for 2021/22 would continue to be challenging for the Council both operationally and financially due to the ongoing implications of the pandemic.

It was however, further noted by the Chairman that it was early in the current financial year and that no doubt the Finance team and Members would keep a watching brief going forward.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2021/22 Revenue budget be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and it being noted that the position reflected the progress for the first quarter of the financial year.

249 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY, 2021 (REF) –

The reference and the report provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme with the Head of Service drawing Members' attention to the £22.9m slippage that had been brought forward.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, in referring to paragraphs 2.36 and 2.37 of the report, sought clarification on the WLGA Food Poverty Grant and Good Shed repayment to Welsh Government (WG). With regard to the Good Shed it had been an agreement with WG and the Council that money for land received would be split between both and the agreement dated back to WG's investment in the Innovation Quarter in Barry some time ago, hence the need now for the monies to be allocated in the Programme. With regard to the Food Poverty Grant, the Head of

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Service was unable to provide the detail at the meeting but would arrange for the information to be forwarded to Members as soon as possible.

In response to a query from Councillor Drake regarding to a recent water leak at Barry Town Hall, the Head of Service agreed to enquire as to the timeline for completion of the repair and would advise Members accordingly.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference

RECOMMENDED – T H A T progress made on the Capital Programme for 2021/22 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and it being noted that the position reflected the progress for the first quarter of the financial year.

250 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE 2020/21 (MD) –

The purpose of the report was to present the Quarter 4 performance results for the period 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021 attached at Appendix A in delivering the Annual Delivery Plan commitments as aligned to the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives. The Full Annual Delivery report (Improvement Plan Part Two) was to be brought to Committees in the Autumn.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, in acknowledging the detail with the report, asked what system of prioritising was being taken forward during the pandemic and for the areas where no data or benchmarking was available, how was the team assessing those figures. The process over the summer would provide some of the data to assist where required as some of the measures were reported. Statutory performance indicator data was suspended by the Data Unit during the pandemic, but the Council took the decision to collect data where it was possible to do so.

With regard to the areas of underperformance, the data information was collected and the performance team met with Directors to consider what remedial actions were to be made or had been considered in addressing under-performance and detailed discussions then took place with the Senior Leadership Team.

Following a further query regarding the publication of Pan Wales data, it was again acknowledged that as a result of the pandemic the Pan Wales data would not be as robust and therefore there would not be the same level of comparability with Local Authorities as in previous years.

Councillor John, in referring to the action HR /ADO2 support development of Corporate service standard, asked how this was likely to be achieved. In response the Head of Service stated that some preparatory work had been undertaken to date to establish corporate standards.

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The Chairman and Councillor John took the opportunity to thank the Head of Service and his team for all the hard work in this area.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Improvement and Development Team be thanked for their hard work in the production of the report having particular regard to the level of detail contained therein.
- (3) T H A T an update report on the work of the Contact Centre including the development of its new digital customer experience platform be presented to the Committee after the summer period.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report.
- (3) For the Committee's consideration.

251 1ST QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF
RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
2021/22 (MD) –

The purpose of the report was to report progress on Scrutiny recommendations and to consider the updated Forward Work Programme together with any slippage for 2021/22. Having regard to the comments provided at the meeting by the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer regarding the status of Committee's recommendations contained within the appendices and discussions relating to the work programme, it was

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed as completed in Appendix A to the report be accepted, together with the status of Min. No. 137, it being noted that the information requested by Members had been forwarded on 15th July, 2021 by email.
- (2) T H A T the updated Committee Forward Work Programme Schedule attached at Appendix B to the report be approved and uploaded to the Council's website subject to the addition that a report on the work of the Contact Centre including the development of its interface be presented to the Committee in Autumn 2021.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.

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- (2) For consideration and information.