

No.

## **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

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

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

Present: Councillor E. Goodjohn (Vice-Chair in the Chair); Councillors G.D.D. Carroll, P. Drake, S.J. Haines, S.M. Hanks, Dr. I.J. Johnson, B. Loveluck-Edwards and N.J. Wood

Also present: Councillors A. Asbrey, L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### 647 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Vice-Chair, in the Chair, 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”.

### 648 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor J. Protheroe (Chair); Councillors C.P. Franks and H.C. Hamilton.

### 649 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### 650 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 651 Q2 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2023/2024 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 was presented to the Committee by the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, the purpose of which was to update Members on the sickness absence from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30 September, 2023.

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The Committee were informed that absence figures had improved in comparison to the same period last year but it was still important to note that all Directorates were still tracking or trending above their target and it was forecast to be above target at the end of 2024. The Committee were given a breakdown of the key areas or reasons for absence, most prominent being viral and stress (non-work related) reasons for absence.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained to the Committee Members that there had been other reasons for high levels of absence or sickness around operations for muscular-skeletal or similar problems which was in part due to the increase in hospital operations that staff were now able to access due to the opening up after covid which they had not been able to access during the pandemic period.

Members were also referred to the positive and proactive health promotion and other means of helping to maintain or increase attendance as well as manage absence and attendance, including the use of an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) with a new provider now sourced to help achieve this. Other areas referred to include the work in providing staff with free flu vaccinations, the use of digital transformation and the new Occupational Health booking system which would help to streamline administration and thereby free up doctors and nurses within the Occupational Health Unit for appointment, etc, the update of the Council's Stress Management Procedures, the extended wellbeing package rolled out to all employees, and the provision by the Occupational Health Department of wellbeing / health screening to all employees in the near future.

A full report containing the breakdown of sickness levels per FTE across all Directorates and services continued to be reviewed by the Council's Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) each quarter and any required action was taken.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, Councillor Loveluck-Edwards asked whether the review being undertaken around managing attendance and performance had been welcomed by the Trade Unions and it was good to see such engagement had taken place. It was also pleasing to see the steps that were being taken in terms of the wider health and wellbeing of Council staff and that the Council was seemingly going above and beyond what any employer would reasonably be expected to be doing to help mitigate these issues. In response, the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development stated that the Council worked collaboratively with Trade Unions as well as working with corporate groups around absence and sickness management as well as supporting employees during such instances such as through phased return. It was also explained that the Council engaged with diversity networks as well as part of this process. The Councillor subsequently asked if there were any measures in place to discount any disability related absences and whether the relevant triggers around this had or would be put in place. It was explained that any such triggers were based on the Bradford Factor which provided consistency in terms of how absence was managed but ultimately the Council always considered the person at the end of the policy and procedure and if it was a recognised disability the relevant member of

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staff would receive support from the Occupational Health Team who would look to discount or review any actions related to disability absence.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report and all the issues and implications contained therein,

RECOMMENDED – T H A T both the Cabinet reference and the appended report regarding Q2 Sickness Absence for 2023/2024 be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of both the Cabinet reference and report on Q2 Sickness Absence for 2023/2024.

#### 652 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING SUMMARY REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 was presented by the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, the purpose of which was to provide a summary on the activity that had been undertaken in relation to corporate arrangements for safeguarding across the Council and to provide assurance around safeguarding activity taking place across the Vale of Glamorgan as well.

The report provided a composite review of activity the Council was undertaking across all areas of safeguarding via the work of the Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG), who recently established key dashboards in order to review the strategic activity across the Council. The Committee were informed of the number of areas relevant to the remit of the Committee such as safer recruitment and with regard to training. The CSG ensured that these areas were regularly reviewed and monitored in order to ensure full compliance around safer recruitment policy and the completion of mandatory safeguarding awareness and other related forms of training respectively. Compliance rates remained high and through the use of dashboards this would be maintained via line managers over Council staff. Furthermore, safeguarding training was also offered to school governors.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, Councillor Carroll queried the rates of compliance and if there were overview figures or percentages that could be provided on these as well as potential anomalies in the system and examples of these. The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that statistics on compliance rates would be provided to the Committee in due course but in terms of compliance rates around areas such as safe recruitment, this was currently at 100% with currently no anomalies identified. However, there was still a gap in terms of compliance based training that was being looked at in order to close over the next quarter.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report and all the issues and implication contained therein,

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RECOMMENDED – T H A T both the reference and appended Cabinet report on the activity that had been undertaken in relation to Corporate arrangements for Safeguarding across the Council be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the reference and report to provide assurance around safeguarding activity taking place across the Council as well as to ensure that there was a wide-reaching level of Member oversight.

653 QUARTER 2 REVENUE MONITORING 2023/24 (DCR) –

The report was presented by the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of the Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring position for 2023/24, as follows:

- The revenue position for 2023/24 continued to reflect challenging demand and inflationary pressures (as was the case in Quarter 1), with increasing demand in respect of Children’s and Adults’ Social Care and significant increases in the cost of placements and care packages. Support for Additional Learning Needs continued to be an area of significant pressure within Learning and Skills. Overspends in these areas would be funded in year from Reserves. The Council was also experiencing continued inflationary pressures in respect of School Transport and overspends in Highways Maintenance.
- The Committee were informed that the budget for Corporate Resources was generally in good order, with the revised budget proposal set at £17.081m after a transfer for Corporate Recharges of £12.701m.
- The Council had identified a number of steps to be taken in year to help mitigate the emerging overspend, which included tighter controls on expenditure and recruitment, safeguard as well as review reserves, and a review of the Capital Programme. The Corporate Resources Directorate had identified a potential underspend and therefore a favourable variance of £300k to be offset against emerging overspends and there was a projected underspend of £1m against Council Tax income due to the projected collection of arrears, new properties, changes in allowances and premiums on empty homes. In addition, the situation around arrears had improved since the Pandemic.
- The Council also continued to maximise internal borrowing, thereby reducing external borrowing costs for the Council with current projections that the Council would have a surplus against this budget in 2023/24 of almost £1.4m.
- Key pressures on Corporate Resources included delays to the implementation of 2023/24 savings initiatives (i.e. the reorganisation of Council office space), Coroner Services Overspend of £70k, Legal Services income shortfall and the Annual Microsoft Licencing costs.
- Challenging savings and efficiency targets had been set for 2023/24 which included a target of £2.75m for schools and £4.628m of corporate savings. The Council reserves remained healthy but a large number were committed to delivering the Capital Programme. These were used for funding Council priorities, manage known risk and ringfenced budgets as well as investment.

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Transfers included those areas that needed to see a 'smoothing' out of pressures over the medium term, i.e. energy and homelessness. However, projected reserves for year-end were forecast at £57m, down from £110m at the start of the year.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Dr. Johnson and the Vice-Chair, in the Chair, raised a number of comments and queries, which included:

- The ongoing importance of anticipating potential demands on and increased costs in key services provided by the Council, as well as other potential challenges or risks when setting the budget and reserves.
- The need for an equal focus on Education as well as Social Services, and on concerns that a number of schools within the Vale of Glamorgan were in deficit and therefore faced an impasse as they cannot have their budgets signed off due to structural and legislative constraints.
- Future reporting should breakdown and 'split' information on Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Welsh Language information and resources with regards to education.
- The importance of monitoring the Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) effectively, in order to mitigate slippages and over / underspends as much as possible and ensure the 'synchronisation' of financial reports (revenue and capital).
- On the slippage of new builds and if overspends were being seen in other Welsh Local Authorities relating to Social Services, etc.

In response to these queries, etc., the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer stated the following:

- The issues raised by Councillor Dr. Johnson were all areas that were of concern to the Finance team, particularly with regard to budget setting and in expectation of such budgetary pressures, additional resources had been provided to critical areas such as Social Services, which was challenging due to the increasingly complex issues and demands such services faced, in part linked to the effects of the Pandemic on children and young people and demands on Adult Services, in light of increasing challenges around funding. These trends were also being experienced by other Welsh Local Authorities.
- Currently, those Vale of Glamorgan schools in deficit could not have their budgets signed off, hence the use of the term 'in limbo'. The Council continued to manage and monitor the situation and assist as best it could, but it would be a challenge and require considerable resources in order to resolve. This appeared to be a structural issue and the Council stepping in to run the schools and their finances directly would not ultimately prove effective.
- On the HRA, Councillor Dr Johnson was correct on his summary of its position in relation to the Capital Programme and the relevant report had gone to Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. HRA continued to strive in delivering the Capital Programme, but there remained challenges in terms of forecasting and the actual implementation i.e. the adverse impact of bad weather on construction / house building projects.
- On slippages on new builds this would be looked into and on overspends for other Local Authorities on Social Services, this trend was seen elsewhere,

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although this may be done to various, potentially different factors to those seen in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report,

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the position with regard the Authority's 2023/24 Revenue Budget be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Revised Budget 2023/24 presented in this report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the following comments from the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:
  - The ongoing importance of anticipating potential demands on and increased costs in key services provided by the Council, as well as other potential challenges or risks when setting the budget and reserves.
  - The need for an equal focus on Education as well as Social Services, and on concerns that a number of schools within the Vale of Glamorgan were in deficit and therefore faced an impasse as they cannot have their budgets signed off due to structural and legislative constraints.
  - Future reporting should breakdown and 'split' information on Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Welsh Language information and resources with regards to education.
  - The importance of monitoring the Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) effectively, in order to mitigate slippages and over / underspends as much as possible and ensure the 'synchronisation' of financial reports (revenue and capital).

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (3) For Cabinet to consider the comments made by the Committee in relation to revenue and financial reporting going forward.

#### 654 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 (REF) –

The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of the progress on the 2023/24 Capital Programme for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 for their consideration, including:

- The report noted the current approved programme of £129.298m, but it was important to note that this was unlikely to be delivered and slippage was requested of £18.801m. Schemes would be closely monitored over the coming months, and it was anticipated that further slippage requests would be

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requested in future reports. Spend to the end of September 2023 had been £25.666m.

- Due to the current financial situation the Council's Capital Programme had undergone a review. The report requested changes that would release funding back into the Council's reserves, capital receipts and other sources of capital funding to ensure finances were more sustainable and the Capital Programme was deliverable. It was proposed to remove some uncommitted schemes and vire money to help mitigate future years' revenue pressures. Due to the Capital Programme Review £5.545m could be placed back into reserves and other sources of capital funding.
- The Capital Programme Review did impact several schemes and their budgets under the Committee's remit, i.e. the ICT Allocation, Stronger Community Grant Fund, Civic Offices Toilet Refurbishment, Eich Lle scheme, the Refresh of the Network Infrastructure in C1V and the Ash Die Back and Replanting scheme, as well as the City Deal scheme.

Following the presentation of the reference and report, Councillor Dr. Johnson raised a number of comments and queries concerning capital schemes, including Colcot Sports Centre, the Restore the Thaw Landscape project, Ysgol Sant Curig and its decarbonisation and lighting budgets, Cosmeston Lodge and reprofiling the City Deal. In response, the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer stated that the Restore the Thaw Landscape project was a good news story through the leveraging of a significant external grant in order to help in its implementation. On the other items raised, the Head of Finance would need to look into these and would share the information with the Councillor and the Committee in due course.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report,

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Cabinet reference and appended report on Capital Monitoring for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 be noted, subject to the queries raised by the Committee for this item being addressed.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the reference and report on the progress made on the Capital Programme, the use of Delegated Authority, Emergency Powers and changes to the 2023/24 Capital Programme and future years' Capital Programme.

655 REFRESH OF MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 TO 2028/29 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 was presented by the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, the purpose of which was for Members to review the work around this refresh and on mitigating the cost pressures.

The Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer outlined to the Committee, via a number of slides, information relating to the budget planning cycle, which included a vigorous and tough process in order to set the budget, the details concerning the financial strategy and the key components of this such as focus on supporting the most

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vulnerable, ensuring sustainable finances as well as having an appropriate level of reserves and ensuring accessible and transparent finances in order to deliver best value. The financial position was laid out which was extremely challenging and required a significant review and refresh particularly in light of the upcoming Welsh Government settlement. Due to this there would be numerous challenges such as setting the Council Tax and the costs on discretionary services in terms of fees and charges.

The overall gap in 2024/25 in Council finances was approximately £30m with underlying pressures of £38.5m. This was unprecedented and was driven by a variety of factors including inflation amongst other increasingly complex issues that the Council faced. This meant a tough review of cost pressures with Directors with a number of issues to face such as the Council being unable to fund all pay awards and the need to achieve efficiencies as well as ongoing discussions with partners such as care providers. Options were being looked at in terms of Council Tax rates with the assumption that this would increase around 5% and with prospects of higher funding from Welsh Government being unlikely.

The Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer also outlined the next steps in the process to the Committee which ranged from the setting of the UK Government budget through to Welsh Government's settlement and revenue and capital budgets being open for consultation and with a draft / final budget around February / March 2024.

Following the presentation of the reference and report, a number of comments and queries were raised by the Committee and others:

- Councillor Dr. Johnson made a number of comments and queries including the expectation and timing of the Welsh Government settlement, the basis for the potential Council Tax increase, the collaboration with other Local Authorities such as the shared service arrangements with Cardiff, Monmouthshire and Torfaen and whether this had started and the spending on Additional Learning Needs and Welsh Medium primary education. In response, it was explained that the timing of the Welsh Government settlement would be around 19<sup>th</sup> December and shared with Local Authorities on 20<sup>th</sup> December although this might be reset to an earlier date. On wages it was explained that it was a difficult process for the Council to predict inflation and its impact on wages. However, the Council had made checks with colleagues across the Welsh Local Authorities, and they were all in general in agreement on 'ball park' figures for this. At this time, it was impossible to call the impact of lowering rates of inflation on what could be protracted wage negotiations. On the query concerning procurement and shared services arrangements, it was explained that the Council had gone forward with the shared service arrangements with Ardal, which was led by Cardiff with the Vale and two Local Authority partners for the early deliverables that had been requested from them which included the comprehensive contract register and forward plan which were expected in the very near future. This would have more of an impact in the 2025/26 future years' budget. Also of note was that the Forward Plan would be taken on a regular basis to the Insight Board and would be looking at the renewal of contracts on a regular basis. The Council would ensure that there was greater clarity around this.

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- With regard to Councillor Loveluck-Edwards' query on the significant pressures on the Council and therefore was the Council looking at additional external funding in order to safeguard services as much as possible, it was explained that the Council generally was very successful in bringing in additional grants and funding for a number of key projects and schemes. However, such funding and grants were not so readily available for support of day to day running of Council services. However, the Council would endeavour to try and bring in as much additional revenue via grants and funding in order to support its services.
- The Vice-Chair, in the Chair, asked about the service agreements around procurement and net zero and whether there was any further funding on sustainable development. He also referred to the use of B&Bs and other forms of temporary accommodation for housing and homelessness and whether this pressure would be down by the 2027/28 period. It was explained that in terms of net zero and procurement there was no significant Project Zero funding in the budget. The main resources identified were those coming from reserves which were being used in the Capital Programme in order to support net zero. It remained a very challenging ambition to divert resources during the current financial climate, but the Council continued to explore ways of developing through Ardal means to help promote sustainability in procurement such as an internal distribution list to procurement colleagues and guidance notes from Ardal regarding this point. With regard to B&Bs and homelessness, the strategy was in place that was agreed last year to create extra provision in the Council so that it could house people more efficiently and progress had been made through the development of the Housing Revenue Account and seeking alternative arrangements for accommodation.
- The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources informed the Committee of the Council's success in terms of actively pursuing and receiving external funding such as the mapping of deprived areas and the work on Restore the Thaw Landscape project which had been funded by Heritage Lottery. It was also important for residents to fully understand the restrictions on certain funding and grant streams and why they could not simply be added to other key additional needs such as filling in potholes. In addition, external funding did not meet core needs, that was not its purpose, and it was important that officers concentrated on key core areas of business in terms of funding, etc.

Committee, having considered the reference and appended report,

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Refresh of Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2028/29 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the following comments be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:
  - The importance of the Vale of Glamorgan Council to adequately fund and resource more sustainable sources of procurement in order meet its obligations under Project Zero.

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### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the reference, report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) For Cabinet to consider the comments made by the Committee in relation to the Refresh of Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29.

### 656 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE 2023/24 (DCR) –

The abridged performance report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, outlined the Council's progress at Quarter 2 (Q2) (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2023/24) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

Due to current capacity challenges within the Corporate Performance Team, the format for the Q2 Annual Delivery Plan Monitoring Report had been revised temporarily, to enable the Council to continue to provide Elected Members with an overview of progress in delivering its Annual Delivery Plan commitments as aligned to the remit of each Scrutiny Committee.

The presentation appended at Appendix A to the report provided a summary of progress against the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2023/24 as aligned to the remit of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, based on the Council's 4 well-being objectives, including areas such as the approval of the Vale Public Services Board's (PSB's) application to join a global network of Age Friendly communities by the World Health Organisation through to delivering the Council's commitments to achieve net zero by 2030 given the significant challenges including costs associated with decarbonising our own assets and the supply chain.

Following the presentation of the report, the following questions were raised:

- Councillor Loveluck-Edwards shared with the Committee the significant amount of work undertaken by Council staff around the granting of the Age Friendly status for the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council were attempting to deal with the challenges faced by an increasingly ageing population within the Vale and associated issues around poor mental health, loneliness and isolation, particularly those areas within the rural Vale.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson raised the issue of the narrative focus on the current report and that hopefully with increased capacity in the relevant team going forward, this would be addressed and the report would revert to including details of the performance exceptions and provide statistical breakdowns as well as the traffic light or RAG ratings. He also referred to the need for greater detail concerning Objective 2 in terms of achievements such as the work on benefitting young people for the Shared Prosperity Fund and with regard to improvement on 16-18 NEET data, with a greater emphasis needed on output

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as opposed to process. On Objective 4 he referred to the minutes of previous Governance and Audit Committee where Project Zero was described as a potential 'catastrophic' risk and how the Council could measure achievement with the use of a RAG traffic light system and whether this would be resolved in Quarter 3 performance data. The Vice-Chair, in the Chair, referred to the risk rating of Governance and Audit and although it was described as potentially catastrophic, this was simply an assessment in terms of risk and therefore it was a potential not actual risk but it did need to be mitigated, nonetheless. The Director of Corporate Resources explained that the approach for the Quarter 2 report was based on a greater narrative and fewer statistics but areas for improvement and exceptions had been drawn out and added to this narrative element as well. However, the Committee would be provided with a more statistically based report for Quarter 3 and information concerning NEETs etc. raised by Councillor Dr. Johnson would be requested from colleagues from Learning and Skills and other relevant Directorates and passed on to the Committee. In addition, the tier system referred to around the NEET system was also outlined to the Committee following Councillor Dr. Johnson's queries. On Project Zero, the risks around the implementation and completion of this work were being reviewed and it was important to state clearly the escalating risks around this at the current time.

- On the Councillor's query around the progress and review of buildings / street names and monuments, colleagues in Democratic Services were canvassing Elected Members to participate in this with the hope that greater information could be provided in Quarter 3 around any progress made.
- The Vice-Chair, in the Chair, asked about the Public Services Board (PSB) and the importance of Vale of Glamorgan Council working with this body and other stakeholders in working towards Project Zero and their collective net zero agreements and that further information on the progress on climate change work undertaken by the PSB should be reported to the relevant Committees, due to the adoption of the Climate Change Charter. It was explained that additional information would be provided to the Committee on the points raised.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson also referred to previous requests by the Committee that the PSB present specific areas of activities that they dealt with to Scrutiny Committees such as tackling deprivation as well as Project Zero. Assurances were made that this would be renewed and refreshed on the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report,

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Quarter 2 performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

(2) T H A T the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of under-performance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

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- (3) T H A T the following comments be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:
- That the Cabinet note the importance of the Vale of Glamorgan Council working with stakeholders, other public and private bodies and partners, including the Public Service Board (PSB) in working towards Project Zero and their collective net zero agreements and that information on the progress of the climate change work undertaken by the PSB should be reported to the relevant Committees.
  - That Cabinet note the further request of the Committee to ensure that specific areas of PSB activity are presented for scrutiny by the relevant scrutiny committees during the year.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(3) For Cabinet consideration.

#### 657 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, the purpose of which was to outline the draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) as part of the consultation process. This would be the final ADP in the current Corporate Plan cycle. The appended report set out how the draft Annual Delivery Plan had been developed, the proposed consultation and the timetable for the Plan, which was outlined by the Director.

Following the presentation of the report, a number of questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Dr. Johnson stated it was important that the Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25 focussed on the Council's outputs including both its successes and areas of improvement, as well as the relevant processes involved.
- The Vice-Chair, in the Chair, stated it was important to consider the results of the Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey and incorporate its findings into the Annual Delivery Plan. This would ensure that the public's opinions of the performance of and services undertaken by the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be duly considered and to help foster public engagement and trust in local government.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson stressed the importance of ensuring that the consultation and self-assessment process in place for the Annual Delivery Plan was sufficiently robust and effective.
- The Vice-Chair, in the Chair, suggested a greater focus on 'smart' targets in the Annual Delivery Plan and measuring their subsequent successes or need for improvement.
- Councillor Loveluck-Edwards stated it was also still important to clearly outline the successes achieved by the Council, which could not always be easily framed within the context of purely statistical analysis and output.

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- The Vice-Chair, in the Chair asked that consideration be given to including public engagement as a critical challenge within the Annual Delivery Plan.

The Director of Corporate Resources responded to the above comments and queries as follows:

- On the issue of performance and output, this would be looked at in terms of the next ADP in order to reaffirm and refresh what was the rationale of the Plan in relation to the Council's priorities and following consultations with relevant stakeholders. In addition, successes and outputs could also be seen in the subsequent service plans that were produced as linked into the ADP.
- The comments around the results of Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey would be acted on with the reflection of its results informing the ADP.
- It was important the Committee were aware that as part of the conversation around the drafting of the ADP the breadth of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's performance and services and the need to balance priorities with the ability to provide resources against these.
- The comments of Councillor Dr. Johnson around organisational resilience would also be noted.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T following consideration of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25 by the Committee, the following comments be shared with the Director of Corporate Resources to inform revisions to the Annual Delivery Plan, prior to Cabinet considering a final draft in due course:

- It was important that the Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25 focussed on the Council's outputs including both its successes and areas of improvement, as well as the relevant processes involved.
- As part of this, it was important to consider the results of the Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey and incorporate its findings into the Annual Delivery Plan. This would ensure that the public's opinions of the performance of and services undertaken by the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be duly considered and to help foster public engagement and trust in local government.
- It was important to ensure that the consultation and self-assessment process in place for the Annual Delivery Plan was sufficiently robust and effective.
- A greater focus on 'smart' targets in the Annual Delivery Plan and measuring their subsequent successes or need for improvement.
- It was also still important to clearly outline the successes achieved by the Council, which could not always be easily framed within the context of purely statistical analysis and output.
- That consideration be given to including public engagement as a critical challenge within the Annual Delivery Plan.

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Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the comments and feedback made by Committee on the Annual Delivery Plan are considered as part of the programme of consultation.