

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 13th July, 2021.

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

The Meeting recordings are available here. [Part 1 of 2](#); [Part 2 of 2](#)

Present: Councillor Ms. B.E Brooks (Chairman); Councillor Ms. S. Sivagnanam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, M.G.J. Morgan, A.R. Robertson, L.O. Rowlands and S.T. Wiliam.

Also Present: Councillors L. Burnett (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration), P.G. King (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport) and N. Moore (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources).

215 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chairman 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.”

216 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor V.J. Bailey.

217 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

218 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

219 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21 (DEH) –

The accounts were complete and the report informed Scrutiny Committee of the provisional financial position for the Committee for the 2020/21 financial year.

The year end revenue position was breakeven after a net transfer from reserves of £695k. A revenue savings target of £83k had been set for 2020/21 which was achieved. There was capital expenditure during the year of £14.662m.

No.

The ongoing pressures with regard the revenue budget especially in Neighbourhood Services was discussed. Pressures were also highlighted within Building services; however, it was explained these were more short term in nature and were due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the reduction in building maintenance work.

The capital programme for the committee had an out-turn of £7.635m less than budget and the major variances were discussed. It was acknowledged that a large amount of these budgets would be slipped into the following financial year, 2021/22.

The current level of reserves was discussed and there was an explanation that these were heavily utilised for pressures within the area.

As a result of the capital underspend in 2020/21, an allocation of £4.632m had been approved via Managing Director's Emergency Powers, as slippage into 2021/22 for this Committee.

Councillor G. John queried capital funding relating to the Boverton flood prevention scheme, commenting that this scheme had been completed for a few years. In reply, the Director of Environment and Housing advised that this funding related to contract retention and in case any more works were required. It was agreed that further detail of this scheme would be sent via email.

Subsequently it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the report and financial measures taken be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Following consideration of the provisional financial position for 2020/21.

220 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY 2021 (DEH) –

The report advised Scrutiny Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st May, 2021.

It was acknowledged that it was early in the financial year however it is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Services budget could require a potential unplanned transfer from reserves at year end of £1.25m.

The revenue position for 2021/22 would be challenging with the continuing pressure for the service both operationally and financially as a result of the underlying budget pressures within the Waste Collection service as well as the COVID 19 pandemic. This would impact both because of incurring additional expenditure but also from a loss of income. Funding had been provided by Welsh Government to cover some of the issues.

No.

An efficiency target for the year had been set at £162k however it was anticipated that it would be difficult for Neighbourhood Services to achieve these savings currently. The capital budget had been set at £23.439m for this financial year. The report detailed recent changes made to the capital programme.

Having considered the report, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2021/22 revenue and capital budget be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

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

The performance report presented the Council's progress at Quarter 4 (1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2020/21) (ADP) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The appended presentation was intended to provide Members with an overview of end of year performance earlier in the calendar year. This ahead of the more detailed Annual Report 2020/21. This would be reported to Cabinet in September 2021 and Full Council prior to publication in October 2021 in line with the statutory timetable.

Despite the ongoing challenges of responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had made positive progress in delivering its in-year commitments in relation to its ADP. This performance had contributed to an overall Amber status for the ADP at Quarter 4 (Q4).

All four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed an Amber performance status at Q4 to reflect the progress made to date. This was positive given the unprecedented challenges the Council continued to face.

60% (141 out of 234) of planned activities outlined in the Council's ADP had been attributed a Green performance reflecting the positive progress made during the quarter, under challenging circumstances. 40% (93) of planned activities were attributed a Red status.

Of the 93 actions attributed a Red performance status at end of year, 91% (85) were directly as a result of service reprioritisation measures undertaken in response to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In relation to these areas, where appropriate, work was now recommencing as part of the Council's recovery plans and strategy. Progress in relation to Coronavirus recovery was being reported to Members in the presentation accompanying the performance report at Scrutiny Committee and would focus on highlighting issues pertinent to the Committee's remit. This Coronavirus recovery update now formed part of quarterly performance

No.

reporting to ensure Members maintained an oversight of the recovery issues impacting on the work of their respective Committees. From this perspective, Members were requested to note the progress to date in relation to Coronavirus recovery.

In relation to the planned activities within the remit of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 73% (37 out of 51) were attributed a Green performance status and 28% (14) Red status. Of the 14 attributed a Red performance status, the impact of COVID-19 was identified as a contributory factor in the reported slippage for 9 of the actions.

Of the 26 measures reported (indicated as 21 within the report), 14 were attributed a Green status, 3 were attributed Amber status. PAM/021 (principle B roads that are in overall poor condition), PAM/020 (principle A roads that are in in overall poor condition), CPM/068 (percentage of adults 60+ who have a concessionary bus pass), CPM/100 (percentage of Council streetlights that are LED), CPM/111 (percentage of reported fly tipping incidents which lead to enforcement activity) and CPM/116 (kilograms of Local Authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person), CPM/050 Total number of visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan for Tourism purposes (as measured by STEAM survey), CPM/055 (Total number of staying visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan for tourism purposes (as measured by STEAM survey), CPM/059 (The percentage of staying visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan for tourism purposes that have a SFR stay (staying with friends or relatives) (as measured by STEAM survey). 6 out of the 9 measures attributed a Red status, the impact of COVID-19 had contributed to missing the target.

The report sought Elected Members' consideration of Q4 performance results and the proposed remedial actions to address areas of identified underperformance. Upon consideration, the Scrutiny Committee was recommended to refer their views and any recommendations to Cabinet for their consideration.

Councillor A.R. Robertson queried how much waste in tonnes, was recycled. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that from attending a recent meeting of Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee, residual waste figures provided at that meeting showed that for 2020/21, almost 19000 tonnes were sent from the Vale of Glamorgan. This represented over 10% of the project's total tonnage for the year. The Committee agreed for the information from the meeting to be shared via email.

With regard to the new Waste Transfer station, the Director of Environment and Housing advised that planning had been agreed and contractors were due on-site next week to start construction. It was envisioned that it would take 10 to 12 months to complete construction.

Subsequently it was

RECOMMENDED –

No.

- (1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives within the remit of the Committee, be noted.
- (2) T H AT 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.
- (3) T H A T the progress being made through the Council's recovery strategy in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, be noted.
- (4) T H A T the thanks and appreciation of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny be passed on to Council staff for their hard work and dedication in meeting the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (4) To pass on the thanks of the Scrutiny Committee for all the hard work and dedication of the staff during the Coronavirus pandemic.

222 1ST QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2021/22 AND UPDATED COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021/22 (MD) –

The Chairman presented the report to update Members on progress on the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and to confirm the updated Committee's Forward Work Programme for 2021/22.

The Committee noted that the Council had sent several requests to Welsh Government regarding the status of the Biomass Plant in Barry and the issue of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment should have been completed for the initial planning application.

With regard to the Section 19 report concerning the major flooding event that occurred during December 2020, the Director of Environment and Housing stated that the report was being finalised and should be ready for publication during August.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H AT the status of the actions listed in Appendices A, B, C and D to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the updated Committee Forward Work Programme Schedule attached at Appendix E be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

No.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For consideration and information.