

No.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 13th December, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor S.D. Perkes (Chair); Councillor J. Aviet (Vice-Chair); Councillors C.E.A. Champion, P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, A.M. Ernest, M.J. Hooper, C. Iannucci, I.A.N. Perry and S.T. Wiliam.

Also present: Councillors A. Asbrey, L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), H.C. Hamilton and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

560 ANNOUNCEMENT –

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

561 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor E. Penn.

562 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

563 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 17th November, 2022 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Director of Place in order for Scrutiny to be consulted and to offer their comments or recommendations on the draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP). The key points raised were as follows:

- The ADP linked into the Council’s Corporate Plan and its four Wellbeing Objectives (as well as the Annual Service Plans, thereby part of the ‘golden thread’ which brought these key plans together).
- The ADP had six themes: Project Zero, Infrastructure, Transformation, Care and Support, Hardship and Community Capacity, as well as three key areas of focus, namely the Cost of Living Crisis, Project Zero and Organisational resilience. A key challenge to the ADP was any budgetary constraints

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resulting from the imminent financial settlement from Welsh Government (WG).

- The ADP also detailed the actions in order to achieve the Corporate and Wellbeing Objectives, ranging from to co-ordinate a response that supports residents, business, the third sector and Council staff with the impact of the cost of living crisis.

Following on from the presentation of the report, the Committee raised the following comments or queries.

Councillor C. Champion stated that the target of 138 affordable houses was too low, and so the Council should be more ambitious. He also queried that for housing schemes over 100 houses was there a requirement to provide a certain amount of land for some Council housing. The Director of Place advised that the current Local Development Plan required, that for certain locations a difference between 30% and 40% of housing must be affordable. The broad meaning of affordable housing across Wales was actually social rented housing. There were also some developments which looked to provide affordable houses at a reduced value that had to be delivered or managed by a social housing provider. The replacement Local Development Plan would consider options for the Council to work with or support social housing providers particularly given the current economic pressures impacting the housing sector.

Councillor M. Hooper agreed that the ADP should be more ambitious, particularly when it came to economic growth and tackling climate change with more reference needed between to the linkages to the 2 areas i.e., climate change could lead to a different type of economic growth. There also needed to be greater reference and scope to the ecological footprint of the Vale (not just the Council). In addition, there was no reference to the types of business that the Council wanted to encourage, for example, social enterprises and economic cooperatives, both of which were more likely to succeed in the current climate. There should be greater reference and consideration to passive houses which would more likely meet possible future environmental standards. In reply, the Director of Place stated it was intrinsic that the Council was looking to try and support growth, but it was important that the type of growth was sustainable. The Director referenced that one of the last things that Council wanted to do was to develop houses which would need to be retrofitted with new technology in 3- or 4-years' time.

Councillor A. Ernest requested a workshop on the ADP for Members and stated that there were few references to plans for Penarth or Dinas Powys.

Councillor I. Perry stated that the Council should look at the range and types of facilities / amenities that were available for local communities, as he felt that a lot of people moved to rural areas but did not seem to stay very long due to the lack of community facilities, i.e. green spaces, shops etc.

The Scrutiny Committee, having considered the Cabinet reference and report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Annual Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A to the Cabinet report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the consultation approach and timetable as well as the approach taken to date to draft the Annual Delivery Plan and the relationship with Annual Service Plans, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (3) T H A T a request be made to the Director of Corporate Resources for the holding of a workshop with Members of the Scrutiny Committee to allow further discussion and debate of the contents of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24 related to the remit of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for recommendations

- (1&2) Having regard to the content of both the reference and appended Cabinet report to consider the draft Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24
- (3) To allow for more Member input into the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24.

564 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE (DEH) –

The performance report presented the Council's progress at Quarter 2 (Q2) (1st April to 30th September, 2022) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

All 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed a Green performance status at Q2 to reflect the good progress made to date in meeting the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2022/23.

93% (353/380) of planned activities outlined in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan had been attributed a Green performance reflecting the positive progress made during the quarter, 2% (7) of planned activities were attributed an Amber status and 5% (20) of planned activities were attributed a Red status.

Of the 128 performance measures aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, data was reported for 27 measures where a performance status was applicable. 59% (16) measures were attributed a Green performance Status, 11% (3), Amber status and 30% (8), Red status. A performance status was not applicable for 101 measures with 22 of these relating to measures establishing baseline performance for 2022/23, a further 67 relating to measures which were monitored annually and for 12 measures no update was provided.

In relation to the planned activities within the remit of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 95% (103 out of 108) were attributed a Green

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performance status, 2 (2%) was attributed an Amber status and 3% (3) were attributed a Red status. Of the 6 measures reported, 67% (4) were attributed a Green performance status and 33% (2) were attributed an Amber status.

This quarter the performance exceptions had been revised to reflect the changes requested by Elected Members following a workshop in July 2022 on performance monitoring of the Annual Delivery Plan. For ease of reference, performance exceptions aligned to the Scrutiny Committee's remit now highlighted the current status of Red performing actions identified in the previous quarter to show direction of travel, that was whether proposed remedial actions had been undertaken to progress those actions.

The report sought Elected Members' consideration of Q2 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 M. Hooper referred to the tight timescales associated with spending money from the Levelling Up Fund. The Director of Place advised that the less time allowed to spend the money meant that any project was more difficult to deliver, particularly one with a £20million budget. There had been some commentary around the possibility of extending the deadline past 2024/25, but nothing had been confirmed yet.

The Chair, Councillor S. Perkes queried reasons for a decline in recycling rates for green waste and an increase in black bag waste. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that in relation to black bag waste, there had been an increase in the use purple bags, which were extra bags that people could obtain if they had additional needs. Generally, the compliance rate with the two black bag rule was positive, but there were a few pockets with issues, for example, putting black bags from multiple houses into a large mound. This was something that the Waste Wardens were investigating. There was a less concern with Green Waste as the decrease may be more likely due to people not cutting their grass or trimming their hedges as often.

Having considered the report, it was

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 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.

Reason for recommendations

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

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565 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL – JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
NOMINATED DEPUTY (CX) –

The report sought the Committee's nomination of a named deputy representative on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC).

Having received three nominations for the position, each of which being seconded, members of the Committee were asked to state their preference by way of a roll call. Councillor J. Aviet received the highest number of votes, and so their nomination would be put forward to Full Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Scrutiny Committee recommends to Full Council that Councillor J. Aviet be appointed as the nominated deputy to represent the Council on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for recommendation

To appoint a named deputy representative to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.