

No.

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 20th June, 2023.

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

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

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

Also present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), B.E. Brooks (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and M.R. Wilson (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services).

137 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.”

138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors C. Iannucci and E. Penn.

139 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

141 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
CALENDER 2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 25th May, 2023 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources. The purpose of the appended report was to present the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar for 2023/24.

Appendix A to the report outlined a rolling programme of collaborative work with Members throughout the 2023/24 Annual Performance Calendar to develop their skills and knowledge and strengthen their involvement in shaping and refining the key plans, reports and processes that would support them in their key role of assessing whether the Council was achieving its Well-being Objectives, delivering value for money, and improving the well-being of its citizens.

The Director stated that following the success of the informal, developmental, Elected Member sessions as part of last year's performance process, these sessions would be run again throughout this year's process as well.

The Committee was requested to consider the Cabinet Reference, with any views being referred back to Cabinet.

Having considered the report, the Committee

RECOMMENDED – T H A T both the Cabinet reference and appended Cabinet report in relation to the Annual Performance Calendar 2023/24 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

142 BECOMING A PLACEMAKING WALES CHARTER SIGNATORY AND
DEVELOPING PLACEMAKING PLANS (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 25th May, 2023 was presented by the Operational Manager – Regeneration.

The Operational Manager advised that Cabinet had endorsed the proposal for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to become a signatory to the Placemaking Wales Charter.

It should be noted that once signed up to the Placemaking Wales Charter, the Council would be eligible to apply for Welsh Government funding to prepare Placemaking Plans for each town in the Vale of Glamorgan: Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge, and Llantwit Major. Welsh Government had advised that future grant funding for towns would be dependent on an adopted Placemaking Plan.

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Therefore, Cabinet had also endorsed a proposal to apply for funding from Welsh Government, which had been specifically allocated to prepare Placemaking Plans, for the four towns in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Operational Manager stated that Plans for each of the 4 towns were at different stages. Barry was one of the earliest ones begun and initial drafts for the area of Barry were largely focusing on Holton Road, the town centre and the waterfront. The Council had been consulting with the Design Commission for Wales about what level of detail contained with the Plan.

With regard to Cowbridge, there had been positive momentum following work from local members, the Town Council, the community and traders. Cowbridge was probably the most advanced of the 4 Plans, and the Operational Manager praised the input from the Town Council around community mapping and on gathering information of what was important to residents and what opportunities were available. As local ward member for Cowbridge, Councillor C. Champion commented that meetings that had been held with stakeholders did have a varying degree of attendance. He added that there were a number of champions created to capture all aspects, for example, Champion for Retail.

Plans for Llantwit Major and Penarth were also progressing but the response for each town area would be different. Although Plans were specific to the 4 towns, the Council was looking consider the views of residents from outlining villages that used the towns. That would assist with the community mapping process and also assist to attract funding.

Councillor A.E. Ernest queried the timetable for engagement with the outlining villages for Penarth including Dinas Powys, Sully and Llandough. The Operational Manager stated that information would probably be captured digitally, and the Council had already met with Dinas Powys Community Council regarding their priorities. It was currently envisioned that community mapping would be completed between September and December, with the potential to start commissioning the Place Making Plan in the New Year. The process would usually take 18 months from start to finish.

Councillor S. Wiliam queried the process for Barry, commenting that it was essential for all the areas to be linked together. The Operational Manager clarified that there would probably be different stages for the different areas of the town as each area had its own identity. In being asked to comment, the Director of Place added that a significant amount of work for Barry had already been done because of the Sense of Place work undertaken.

In terms of funding, the Operational Manager clarified that the Council had created a budget reserve for each town and would match fund any appropriate project approved.

Councillor I. Perry commented that the Council should approach and engage all Town or Community Councils in the Vale, particularly as some may also be able to contribute funds. In reply, the Operational Manager advised that Council staff

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would be discussing the community mapping toolkit and, if necessary, provide advice and assistance.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, with permission to speak, stated that this was a unique opportunity to help plan and develop towns into community towns, so it was vital for the work to be taken forward. The Cabinet Member agreed with comments around engaging with Town and Community Councils and community mapping would enable those areas to feed in what was vital for those communities. The range of organisations and agencies involved was interesting, which would provide a proper joined up strategic approach.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the proposal for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to become a signatory to the Placemaking Wales Charter be endorsed.

Reason for recommendation

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

143 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (DCR) –

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report, the purpose of the report was to advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency and delivering the commitments as part of Project Zero. For this item the Director was also joined by the Programme Manager Project Zero (Climate Change).

The report and Appendix A detailed the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continued to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. Progress included the new Project Zero online hub, planting and support for biodiversity, waste management changes, Place Making planning, adoption of the new Procurement Policy and Strategy, and work on the future Carbon Management Plan. The report also detailed the performance indicators that had been adopted under Project Zero in Appendix B to the report.

The report provided Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the approach the Board was taking with regards to the allocation of funds. The report also updated on the approach to programme management and progress reporting for Project Zero.

Councillor S. Wiliam referred to the impact on the environment from large developments taking place in the Vale, such as Model Farm and the Barry Biomass Plant, commenting that greater thought was needed when it came to the creation of the Council's replacement Local Development Plan (LDP). Due to

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technical difficulties, it was agreed for the Director of Place to send a response via email.

Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby referred to public transport and particularly bus routes and queried whether the needs of the public had changed and whether any work was ongoing regarding timetabling of services, even at a national level. It was agreed for that to be raised as a query with colleagues within Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

Councillor P. Drake queried plans to tackle coastal erosion. Due to the broad nature of the work being undertaken by the Council, it was agreed for further information to be sent via email.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, with permission to speak, stated that he was pleased with the public response to source separation recycling, which was assisting the Council to meet targets to tackle climate change. In addition, the Council was also encouraging people to consider what they purchased and how products were packaged. The Cabinet Member stated that Councillors should be seen ambassadors and assist to engage with businesses and residents about future targets and initiatives.

Councillor A. Ernest stated that he was a little concerned that local ward Members were not always aware of activities or events taking place in their wards, so there could be more involvement from the Ward Members.

Councillor I. Perry commented that the Council could be more consistent when it came to engagement with communities and particularly with developments taking place in the Ward of St Nicholas and Llancarfan, such as, the planning application for the new school. Councillor Perry also highlighted the importance of protecting green spaces referring to the Bonvilston village green application. Therefore, more needed to be done to enhance green spaces. Councillor Perry also referred to more meaningful planning policies such as around the use of building materials, with no definition provided of what were 'quality materials'. Greater consideration was also needed around carbon footprint, with no reference to the distance that materials would travel and also around whether new constructions were truly carbon neutral. In addition, Councillor Perry commented that more work was required in relation to better access to the countryside, the shared economy, how old buildings could be used for new purposes, reference to solar thermal as a source of energy, the use of embodied energy when it came to new constructions, and the quarrying of materials including the impact on the environment for the sourcing of materials for batteries. The Council's Plan needed to go further.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, with permission to speak, commented on issues around public transport. There was a lot of discussions going on around the use of public transport and how it could be enhanced. The Regional Transport Authority, on which the Cabinet Member sat, was looking closely at how bus links between the local authorities could be more joined up, and how those services could be developed. Engagement work was also being undertaken to understand how the needs of communities could be best met.

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The Chair thanked the Programme Manager for the update report and stated that she looked forward to the new RAG rating as part of the next update.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the arrangement to approve the use of reserves to progress future schemes be noted.
- (3) T H A T the performance indicators at Appendix B be noted.
- (4) T H A T the report and any comments be referred to Cabinet alongside any comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) T H A T it be recommended to Cabinet that the report is distributed to all Elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

Reasons for recommendations

(1-5) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

144 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL - JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NOMINATED DEPUTY (DCR) –

The purpose of the report was to seek nominations to the position of deputy to the Vale of Glamorgan representative on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal - Joint Scrutiny Committee. The nomination would be approved by Full Council.

Having received two 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 I. Perry 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 I.A.N. Perry be appointed as the nominated Deputy to represent the Council on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal – Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for recommendation

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