

No.

HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 9th March, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor A. M. Collins (Chair), Councillor. J. Aviet (Vice), Councillors B.E. Brooks, C.A. Cave, S.M. Hanks, R. Nugent-Finn, A.C. Parker and S.D. Perkes.

Also present: G. Doyle, W. Hennessy and H. Smith (Representatives from Tenant Working Group / Panel).

941 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”.

942 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor J.C. Bird and C. Ireland (Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale Representative).

943 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

944 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

945 LOCAL HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (LHMA) 2021 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 14th February, 2022, was presented by the Head of Housing and Building Services and the Operational Manager Public Sector Housing. Members were made aware that should Scrutiny Committee make no recommendations to Cabinet, the amended Cabinet recommendation allowed for the LHMA 2021 to be agreed and adopted. Key points from the report were:

- The statutory and policy framework relating to the Councils housing strategic function and the role of the LHMA were outlined. This touched upon a wide

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range of areas, such as Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Notes (TAN); TAN 2 required all Welsh local authorities to undertake a LHMA. This provided the Council with a comprehensive understanding of the local housing market and provided a robust evidence base for making strategic housing and planning decisions as well as to identify 'gaps' in the housing market.

- Also outlined was the methodology for undertaking a local housing market assessment which had been developed in 2014 by Welsh Government (WG), and therefore was used for the 2019 and 2021 LHMA (as these needed to be undertaken every two years).
- The LHMA considered and reviewed the housing market across the Vale across all tenures / types of housing, including home ownership, private renting and affordable housing. A key aspect of this was to calculate the need for affordable housing (defined as 'housing provided to those whose needs were not met by the market') whether that was social renting, low-cost ownership or through intermediate rent products. This was more relevant than ever, due to the current economic climate and Vale residents being unable to achieve home ownership or to even rent properties due to increasing costs.
- The results of the LHMA 2021 showed a net need for an additional 1205 units of affordable housing per annum for the next five years, comprising 917 units for social rent, 79 for low-cost home ownership and 211 units of intermediate rented accommodation. This was a significant increase on the 900 additional units identified in the 2019 LHMA, with increased demand seen in areas such as shared housing or low-cost home ownership products and intermediate rented accommodation (i.e. rents which were set just below market rates).
- In terms of geography, the greatest housing demand focused around Barry and Penarth.
- In terms of property size, the greatest demand and need was for one- and two-bedroom homes.
- There was also a significant demand for older persons accommodation, with the Council commissioning an assessment on this and a Strategy for Older Persons Housing for the Vale of Glamorgan would then be developed.
- The LHMA was "more of an art than a science" and therefore not a definitive measure of need or as a target figure for housing. Rather it should be used as an indication of the scale of the affordable housing problem and the strategic basis for which to plan. It provided the basis for the Planning Department to look at the Local Development Plan (LDP). It also assisted in negotiations and discussions with the private sector in terms of new building and new housing developments.
- Due to concerns previously raised with the existing methodology, WG had reviewed the methodology and from the next assessment a new methodology would be adopted, which although beneficial, would mean direct comparisons with previous assessments would be difficult.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Parker referred to the increase in construction costs (as high as 15% (or more) with many building materials, etc. and which would probably increase again next year), which would impact Council building costs and asked if the Council were taking this on board with regards to its housing strategy. In response, the Head of Housing and Building Services explained

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that the impact of increased costs (resulting from a number of factors) were already being seen, with only limited numbers of developers bidding for tenders for Council building works and these tenders being in excess of the budget and costs anticipated by the Council, or developers informing the Council that they could no longer honour their previous tenders due to rising costs. This inflation in construction costs could also impact the ability of private developers to deliver the percentages of affordable housing currently required. Due to this, and in terms of the Council's Housing Business Plan, the assumption that the development costs were going to increase beyond 15% had been factored in by the Council as part of its housing and building strategies.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Local Housing Market Assessment 2021, attached at Appendix A to the report, be accepted and the policy implications for the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

946 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST JANUARY 2022 (DEH) –

The purpose of the report, as outlined by the Interim Head of Finance / S151 Officer, was to advise Scrutiny Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st January 2022.

In terms of the revenue budget, it was anticipated that most services within the Committee's remit would outturn within budget at year end. However, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) was projected to have a £100,000 underspend, due to staff vacancies as well as the impact of COVID-19 on the activities normally undertaken by the service.

Regarding the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), due to the capital slippage referred to in this report (approximately £5m), this would require a reduction in the revenue contribution to capital and therefore no loans would be raised this year and the level of the HRA reserve at the year-end would stay the same, because the council would not need to draw down from that reserve. This had been factored into the revised business plan that was approved by Council on the 7th March 2022.

The capital slippage by scheme was also outlined, with contributing factors and issues such as increased costs, sourcing contractors to carry out works and access issues due to people's concerns with having contractors in their homes due to COVID-19. However, the Interim Head of Finance / S151 Officer reiterated that the schemes referred to would be undertaken with some start dates already set, but a 'reprofiling' would be required to enable these schemes to be implemented effectively.

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Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Nugent-Finn asked the following –
 - On the YOS underspend and whether this was movable or was it restricted wholly to this budget; it was explained that the money would not be lost but rather transferred into the reserves, with the aim of looking to actively recruit new staff into YOS next year in order to fill the staff vacancies and utilise the relevant budget. Such budgetary and capital 'risks' had already been identified and incorporated into the relevant business and service plans.
 - On the shortage of contractors and the potential to link in with YOS, other youth services and apprenticeship schemes in order to help address these, the suggestions would be referred back to the Organisational Development & Learning Department, who were already working extremely hard in looking at apprenticeship opportunities. Furthermore, the Housing Team already had a very successful and ongoing relationship with developers building Council housing around apprenticeships and training such as with key groups like NEETS ('not in employment, education or training'). Contractor resourcing / shortages appeared to be an issue throughout Wales and indeed the rest of the United Kingdom, and which could only be addressed in the long term through various means of support and encouragement, i.e., at the local level, the implementation of an optimised retrofit scheme on a number of properties within the Council stock and assisting contractors to upskill by attending college. Employment opportunities for young persons and adults were also being looked at in conjunction with Children Services in the Vale and the Corporate Parenting Panel, as well at a more 'strategic' level i.e., the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.
- On Councillor Parker's query if the Council still liaised with Cardiff and Vale College with regard to apprenticeships in construction and other key areas, this was confirmed as still being the case, and they supported the Council in terms of its own internal apprentice program within Building Services.
- Councillor Perkes emphasised the importance at both an individual and community level the need to increase investment in training and apprenticeships and to provide people with opportunities to go on to further education in order to get fully qualified in key areas of work such as construction.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

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

Reason for recommendation

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

947 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3
PERFORMANCE 2021/22 (DEH) –

The performance report, as presented by the Head of Housing and Building Services, outlined the Council's progress at Quarter 3 (1st April to 31st December 2021) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2021/22) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The Council had made positive progress in delivering its in-year commitments in relation to its Annual Delivery Plan (2021/22). This performance had contributed to an overall Green status for the Plan at Quarter 3 (Q3).

All 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed a Green performance status at Q3 which reflected the progress made to date. This was positive given the ongoing challenges arising from the pandemic and reflected the considerable efforts undertaken by Council staff and others.

91% (288 out of 317) of planned activities outlined in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan had been attributed a Green performance during the quarter, and, at the other end of the spectrum, a small number of planned activities, 2% (8), had an Amber status and 7% (21) were attributed a Red status.

Of the 21 actions attributed a Red performance status during the quarter, 38% (8) 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.

Of the 43 quarterly performance measures aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, data was reported for 41 measures where a performance status was applicable. 56% (23) measures were attributed a Green performance Status, 5% (2), Amber status and 39% (16), Red status. In relation to the 16 measures attributed a Red performance status during the quarter, the impact of COVID-19 had contributed to 25% (4) missing target.

The report also sought Elected Members' consideration of Q3 performance results and the proposed remedial actions to address areas of identified underperformance.

The Head of Housing and Building Services referred Members to the achievements within the ADP specific to the Committee's remit, relating to the 4 Well-being Objectives such as the work undertaken to rehouse Syrian families via the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS); to deliver initiatives to get tenants online; to progress the Llantwit Major food poverty pilot project; as well as the valuable work undertaken by the Council's Community Development Team with partners (i.e. Communities for Work (C4W) schemes); the provision of ongoing and effective support to victims of domestic abuse in order to make them feel safe and secure; the delivery of the Optimised Retrofit Project in order to provide improved heating and cost effective

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energy to tenants; the opening of the Penarth Food Pod; and to undertake key external works on tenants homes.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- On Councillor Aviet's query concerning the Council's response to the recent storms for both Council and non-Council properties and how the Council could help tenants and residents, it was explained that there had been an extensive Council wide response to the 3 storms that had hit Wales in rapid succession (including the Vale), with the Council setting up an emergency planning room to help coordinate its efforts, with support provided by both building services and the building control teams, who worked constantly and round the clock in order to deal with the effects of the storms on housing. The more serious or structural damage seemed to have occurred to private properties, for example, three former council houses in Gibbonsdown whose flat roofs had peeled off due to the high winds and were made safe immediately by officers from building control. Council owned properties had received more minor damage such as loose or damaged tiles and slates (although there had been a lot of fencing damage). In terms of private housing and properties, a lot of the necessary works were undertaken by building control. Also, despite some initial enquiries, no requests for emergency housing had needed to be implemented (which the council would be obligated to provide if required), due to people going to their house insurers in the first place or people relying on friends, family and neighbours. Building Services had taken 260 storm related enquiries, with some works undertaken during the storm but more hazardous repairs (i.e. on roofs) being undertaken after the storms had ended.
- Councillor Nugent-Finn referred to preventative measures around homelessness, raising the issue of people attempting to get a guarantor for rental properties in the private sector if they did not have a previous reference or history of renting properties (i.e., if they had been out of the country) and asked if there was any way around this stipulation. It was explained that the Council had its Vale Assisted Tenancy Scheme (VATS) that could help to provide bonds or the first month's rent in advance for people in such circumstances, as well as liaising on residents' behalf with landlords, particularly where the Council had built a firm relationship with them already based on trust. Ultimately, it would be down to the landlord to determine whether, in the absence of a guarantor or reference, they would be willing to take a tenant on, particularly in the current financial climate and the impact of COVID-19. However, such cases appeared to be relatively few in number but if the Councillor had any specific cases that she needed assistance with, she could contact the Operational Manager Public Sector Housing who would help as much as possible. It was also stressed that the Council worked closely with private sector landlords as much as possible and had funding to help prevent homelessness, in order to help reduce waiting lists for social housing and get people into accommodation via the private sector route.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

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RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22 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 underperformance 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 and the Directorate recovery plans in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

948 SERVICE PLANS AND TARGET SETTING TO DELIVER THE ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23 (DEH) –

The report, as presented by the Head of Housing and Building Services, the Operational Manager Public Sector Housing and Head of Regeneration and Planning, outlined the service plans and targets within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee: Housing and Building Services, Shared Regulatory Services and parts of Regeneration and Planning. These set out the specific areas of focus associated with the delivery of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan for 2022/2023 as aligned to its four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

Progressing the Annual Delivery Plan would help meet the Council's statutory obligations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG). In line with the Council's statutory duties, it continually reviewed the relevance of its Well-being Objectives. The Annual Delivery Plan and Service Plans also detailed the activities that would be undertaken in 2022/23 to deliver the Council's Well-being Objectives within the context of its Recovery Strategy.

All Scrutiny Committees considered a draft Annual Delivery Plan in December 2021 and their views, alongside those of other key stakeholders, had informed the final Plan, as approved by Cabinet on 28th February, 2022 and Council in March 2022.

The commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan were reflected in the Service Plans (Appendix A to the report) together with proposed service improvement targets (Appendix B to the report) to show how individual service areas would contribute to their achievement and overall delivery of the Council's four Well-being Objectives, and all planned activities as they related to the remit of this Committee (as illustrated in Appendix C).

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For Housing and Building Services the key actions and themes from their service plan were:

- Community engagement, i.e. implementation of the actions arising from the tenant participation or tenant engagement strategy, getting more tenants involved in a variety of creative ways next year, as well as expanding on area focused, community engagement initiatives such as the Food Pod implemented at Saint Luke's and Saint Paul's in Penarth which dealt with food poverty, environmental issues and to increase employability.
- To progress the Timebanking / volunteering scheme, and to make this more Vale focused i.e., to ensure that more of the tokens earned through volunteering work could be used within the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The implementation of a new housing-based ICT system, with the potential for residents to access services digitally, such as report repairs, book appointments and bid for properties online, as well as allowing staff to work remotely in order that they can be out of the office more and be out about in the housing estates visiting tenants.
- Greater staff engagement and more effective succession planning in order to develop and retain staff in Housing.
- To review the Council's service delivery model with regard to homelessness due to the impact of COVID-19 and related changes in legislation.
- A greater emphasis on financial inclusion with increasing information sharing and activities planned in relation to money and debt advice, to help people become work ready, additional support for community investment types of initiatives and also housing related support as well as the Housing Support Grant (HSG) programme to help counter the increases in fuel and food poverty.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning also outlined the key actions and themes from his service area:

- In terms of the Disabled Facilities Grant, a review was being undertaken (in conjunction with colleagues from Housing and Social Services) of the three separate adaptations teams, in order to build on their successes, as well as breakdown the perceived barriers between the separate routes into support for both private sector and public sector housing and the interactions with colleagues in social services (through occupational health) in this area.
- Increasing the supply of good quality, accessible, affordable housing by maximizing opportunities via the planning system and through the Section 106 process, and to try to address any challenges and limits caused by increased costs in construction and materials having an impact on viability.
- The ongoing work of the Council's Empty Property Management Service, supported by funding from WG, to bring empty housing stock back in to use, including enforcement action where required.

Following the Officers' presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

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- On Councillor Perkes' query whether the support and advice mentioned for residents who had financial issues would be online and / or provided physically, i.e. at the 'One Stop Shop' at Holton Road Barry, it was explained that the One Stop Shop would be an important point of contact for people to get financial advice and support, as well as other complimentary services and would move from telephone and online support (due to COVID-19) to more face to face contact there. Also, the Council employed money advisors who could also provide either remote or face to face support to residents wherever possible such as with transitioning to Universal Credit (UC).
- G. Doyle (Tenant Representative) asked about the food and drink arrangements for those people living in temporary accommodation for the homeless such as at the hotels near to Rhoose Airport. The reply was that residents in these hotels did face challenges due to the lack of nearby supermarkets and cooking facilities in the hotel rooms (with only toasters, kettles and microwaves being available, but no cookers), but the Council would always be trying to minimise their length of stay at these locations and move people on to shared housing with better facilities. Furthermore, the residents at such accommodation were single people only, with families and more vulnerable individuals going to more specialist accommodation, i.e. the family hostel in Treharne which had more cooking and other facilities. Also, for those people self-isolating due to COVID-19 at the hotels, food would be provided to them via the hotel. The use of such accommodation was an emergency measure, due to COVID-19, and the Council would be moving away from this method in the long term.
- Councillor Nugent-Finn stated there was a need to ensure that people in the temporary B&B / hotel accommodation were 'empowered' in order for them to move on from this type of accommodation, as well the need to relaunch and showcase the help, advice and support that Pobl and the One Stop Shop in Holton Road could offer residents of the Vale. It was explained that COVID-19 had stopped the official launch of the One Stop Shop service previously, but discussions would be had with Pobl to do a formal relaunch of the service.
- Councillor Hanks commented on the positive response the Penarth Food Pod had received, and whether the Llantwit Major food poverty pilot project would follow a similar model. It was clarified that these were two separate and very different types of initiative, with the Llantwit initiative purely focused on food poverty, whereas the one in Penarth was more housing led and included other aspects such as the environment and stronger community engagement. However, best practice from both projects could be used for similar projects elsewhere within the Vale, where there was a clearly identified need for these types of responses.
- Councillor Parker stated that in the current economic climate, the affordable housing requirement may stop smaller builders coming forward to build housing, and this maybe something that the council would need to consider. In response, such concerns would be looked at as part of the Local Development Plan review, which looked at all policies including the policy the councillor had referred to. The process would take around four years and there would be a lot of work done around viability and what the Council would be asking for in terms of Section 106 requirements.

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Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Service Plans (attached at Appendix A to the report) and all planned activities as they relate to the remit of this Committee (as illustrated in Appendix C to the report) be endorsed for Cabinet consideration.

(2) T H A T the proposed service improvement targets for 2022/2023 (attached at Appendix B to the report) relating to the remit of this Committee be endorsed for Cabinet consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure that the Service Plans aligned to this Committee's remit are accurate, up to date and relevant and become the main document through which performance against the Corporate Plan's Annual Delivery Plan is monitored and measured during 2022/2023.

(2) To ensure the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Measurement Framework identifies a relevant set of performance measures and targets against which the Annual Delivery Plan can be monitored and measured during 2022/2023.

949 TASK AND FINISH GROUP: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PROVISION WITHIN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (CX) –

The purpose of the report, as set out by the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, was for Members to consider the findings and recommendations of the main report on Housing and Homelessness Provision within the Vale of Glamorgan (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) and for these to be referred to Cabinet for their consideration and endorsement (with any additional comments or recommendations the Committee wished to add).

The main report (Appendix 1) was the culmination of the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group, as supported by Council Officers and other stakeholders and interested parties, set up in early 2021 to look at housing and homelessness provision as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's recovery from COVID-19. The report outlined the key areas and themes around current and future housing and homelessness provision, with the challenges faced in progressing this by the Council, Welsh Government, other Local Authorities and partners also set out.

A key part of the main report were the recommendations that had been made by the Task and Finish Group which covered a number of areas:

- That the Council continues to hold 'off the shelf' plans in order to develop temporary accommodation and prioritises as part of its housing development programme the inclusion of new build and the acquisition of existing properties.

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- That the Council builds on and develops the 'Housing First' approach towards people who were homeless and other vulnerable groups.
- That the Council ensures greater provision for people who were 'job-ready' in order to help them transition from benefits to employment in order to maintain their current accommodation and to transition to more permanent accommodation if appropriate. This should include looking at increasing the opportunities for tenants to seek employment and apprenticeship opportunities within the various departments of the Council and its services.
- That the Council provides further modular accommodation with intensive, wraparound support, such as seen at the Court Road development.
- That the Council ensures greater provisions for accommodation for older persons (particularly within the rural Vale), in order to increase downsizing opportunities for older tenants occupying large homes and free up that accommodation to be utilised by those persons living in housing that has become unsuitable (including those residents living in temporary and homeless accommodation).
- That the Council undertakes a review of its assets and existing housing i.e., a review of the Council's de-designation strategy in order to increase the supply of single person housing and to look at reviewing previously de-designated units as well as investigating the potential conversion of other properties to types of housing most needed.
- That the Vale of Glamorgan Council investigates at a regional level the potential of collaborating with other Local Authorities to purchase Modern Methods of Construction units, to ensure the most economical use of monies are made for each local authority and to increase the pace and scale of social housing for homeless clients.
- That the Council explore the possibility of accelerating the process between planning for new build social housing sites and move in ready for tenants, i.e., complete the building of such housing units off site. As part of this, the Council should look at examples of best practice in other Local Authorities in Wales and elsewhere.
- That the Council build carbon neutral properties and invest in original stock to bring up to a similar level where able in order to ensure sustainable accommodation and to reduce fuel poverty.
- That the Council considers prioritising local residents during the first phase of housing allocation at rural sites, but then considers allocating such housing to residents elsewhere within the Vale of Glamorgan if there is insufficient demand or priority within the local area itself.
- That the Council reviews the opportunities of expanding the One Stop Shop provision at Holton Road i.e., greater inclusion of 3rd Sector services to complement the work undertaken by Pobl. As part of this, consideration should be given to promoting and publicising the services available to all residents within the Vale of Glamorgan.
- That the Council develops a land disposal protocol which prioritises the disposal of surplus Council owned land for new Council house building in addition to purchasing land within the private market, and further, Council officers liaise with Welsh Government officials regarding surplus public sector land.

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Also, in terms of monitoring, it was recommended that a report providing an update on any progress made on the above be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in 12 months' time and for the report to then be referred onto Cabinet for their consideration.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Perkes (who also acted as the Chair of the Task and Finish Group) stated that this review of Housing and Homelessness Provision had included a cross party group of Members from this Scrutiny Committee and had also included a representative of the Tenant Working Group / Panel, who acted as the Vice Chair of the Group, as well as the contributions made by various Vale of Glamorgan Council Officers (such as Democratic Services, Housing, Legal, Section 106 and Social Services) plus various external partners and experts such as representatives from Pobl, Newydd Housing Association and Welsh Government (WG).

The contributions made by all of the parties involved in the review had helped to increase the knowledge and understanding of the Group rapidly and gave the Group a thorough grasp of the needs, issues and challenges faced by homeless people and to identify who these people were in order to better assist them. The Group also looked at what WG were looking for from Local Authorities regarding housing and homelessness provision, as well as the different policies, legislation and procedures that the Council needed to follow within this area . All of these contributions had helped inform the Group's recommendations within the main report, from the types of housing required to a greater emphasis on Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). It was also important to build on the success of the award-winning development at Court Road regarding temporary accommodation and support. The review had also emphasised the need to identify homelessness more effectively (including 'hidden' homelessness), thereby helping to prevent a return to street homelessness. These sentiments were also echoed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, who had also sat on the Task and Finish Group and referred to the positive feedback from people residing at the Court Road development for temporary accommodation for housing homeless persons.

The Head of Housing and Building Services also commended the report and its recommendations, which would help to assist in delivering the relevant services and preventing or minimising homelessness. He added that the Council had faced a number of challenges over the course of the last few years (such as COVID-19) which had tested its ability to respond and to provide services, including its housing and homelessness provision. This report would help stand housing services in good stead going forward. Furthermore, there would be other reports coming to the Committee in the coming months which would look at the impact of local housing provision and the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, where the challenge would be assisting and housing refugees from the conflict. There was a commitment from the UK Government, Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association to assist Ukrainian refugees, including Vale residents putting themselves forward to sponsor refugees as well as the work that would be undertaken by the Council directly to help house these, as had been done previously with housing refugees from Syria and Afghanistan.

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

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Committee endorses the findings and recommendations of the main report on Housing and Homelessness Provision within the Vale of Glamorgan by the Task and Finish Group.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement.

(3) T H A T an update report on this be provided to the Scrutiny Committee in 12 months' time and for the report to be referred onto Cabinet.

Reasons for recommendations

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

(2) In order for Cabinet to consider the findings, actions and recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group.

(3) To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet are kept updated on any progress made as a result of the findings and recommendations of the main report on Housing and Homelessness Provision within the Vale of Glamorgan.