

No.

## HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor B. Loveluck-Edwards (Vice-Chair in the Chair); Councillors Councillors J. Aviet, G.M. Ball, I. Buckley, S. Campbell, G.D.D. Carroll, S.M. Hanks, W.A. Hennessy and M.J.G. Morgan.

Also present: C. Ireland (Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale Representative) and V. John (Tenant Working Group / Panel Representative); Councillors E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

### 409 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”.

### 410 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors A.M. Collins (Chair), S. Perkes, and G. Doyle, D. Dutch and H. Smith (Tenant Working Group / Panel Representatives).

### 411 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### 412 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 413 DRAFT CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24 AND INITIAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2023/24 TO 2027/28 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 was presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy, who outlined how this was starting off

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the capital budget setting process and was based on the indicative settlement that the Council received from Welsh Government (WG) as part of the 2022/23 budget. These figures would need to be revised in the coming months, following the settlement from WG in December 2022.

In terms of the budget, the Operational Manager – Accountancy referred to the various borrowings made by the Council as part of the Five-Year Capital Program such as from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The report did not make specific allocations in terms of bids, but rather at this time set out those bids that had been submitted as part of the Capital Program and set out the pressures related to these (i.e. decarbonisation of the Council estate, inflation, waste, rising interest rates, etc.). Due to the bids adding up to an amount higher than the funding projected, there would need to be a re-prioritisation of these. Specific bids in relation to the Committee's remit were outlined as follows:

- A program of replacement and maintenance of alley gates;
- The Empty Homes Grant Scheme, which WG were proposing to roll out to try and rectify some of the issues seen with long standing empty homes in all Local Authorities in Wales, with the Council being asked to consider finding a 35% match funding contribution.

In terms of process, the report had been referred from Cabinet to Scrutiny for consultation, with the service specific budget working groups also reviewing this in November. Other factors would be the UK Government's Autumn Budget and the final WG settlement in the coming months, with the final proposals going to Cabinet in February, then Full Council in March, 2023.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Morgan referred to the Highways Asset Management Plan and asked whether Scrutiny would be involved in this process. The Operational Manager – Accountancy would find out further details on this for the Councillor.

On the Vice-Chair's (in the Chair) question about whether the report would come back to Scrutiny, it was explained that there would be Member briefings on this area early in 2023.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and report, subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Initial Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 and Capital Bids be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

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

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#### 414 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN REFRESH (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 was presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy who explained the purpose of the report to the Committee, which entailed re-evaluating the Medium Term Financial Plan due to changing financial circumstances, challenges and cost pressures such as the pay award and rising energy costs.

As part of the above, various modelling had been done to look at possible Welsh Government (WG) settlement scenarios, with the final settlement to be confirmed by WG in December 2022.

The key headline of the report was the significant funding gap for 2023/24. Also of note were several significant cost pressures coming from Council services within the Committee's remit including homelessness support, the cost of temporary Bed and Breakfast Accommodation (with WG funding reduced for this), funding for the support team for Ukrainian refugees (possibly ending after 2022/23), private rented co-ordinator support, support for the new temporary accommodation property, the upgraded CCTV and monitoring and Community Safety / Cohesion.

The ultimate aim of the Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan was to ensure that the Council delivered the Corporate Plan and any emerging trends from the annual assessment, ensure that the Council had a robust and sustainable financial plan over a 5 year period, made sure that the Council had as few as possible unallocated savings and that all cost pressures were fully recognised. It was important that where the Council held reserves this was at an appropriate level and they were in the right place aligned to the key risks of the organisation. Also important was to maximise Council Tax as much as possible, and to ensure that fees and charges covered costs, as well as delivering value for money and to benchmark best practice.

The Council was waiting on more detail from the UK and Welsh Governments in terms of financial settlements. In the meantime, Council Directorates were reviewing cost pressures and looking at delivering initial savings proposals based on projected budget shortfalls.

The final budget proposals would be going to Full Council in March 2023 in order to meet the statutory deadline of 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Prior to this, it was envisioned that there would be Member briefings as part of the consultation process for the financial strategy and plan.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and report, subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Financial Strategy 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

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

415 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy in order to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Details by scheme were shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

Appendix 2 to the report provided a summary of the position of the Capital Programme by Directorate from approval at Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, including any changes requested within the report.

The report set out any requested changes to the 2022/23 and future years' Capital Programme.

Capital schemes were facing challenges due to significant cost increases, which could necessitate scheme re-engineering or re-tendering, resulting in delays to projects. Project officers were also reporting long lead times on the delivery of materials and a shortage of skills in some areas.

The report noted the current approved programme of £95.105m but it was important to note that this was unlikely to be delivered and slippage was requested of £2.524m. Schemes would continue to be monitored closely as part of the regular monitoring arrangements with project managers and sponsors. Further slippage would be reported in future reports.

The report also outlined Delegated Authority requests and the use of Emergency Powers.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on delivering the 2022/23 Capital Programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority as set out in the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
- (4) T H A T the changes to the 2022/23 and future years' Capital Programme as set below be noted.
  - Street Lighting along Frampton Lane – Increase this scheme budget by £5k in the 2022/23 Capital Programme, to be funded by a contribution from S106 monies.

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- Dinas Powys Library Bridge – Include this scheme in the 2022/23 Capital Programme with a budget of £2k to be funded from an Environment and Housing revenue contribution.
- Cosmeston Play Area – Vire £13k from the Cosmeston Play Area scheme to the Porthkerry Play Area Scheme.
- The Knap Gardens – water and biodiversity project – Include this scheme in the 2022/23 Capital Programme with a budget of £6k, to be funded from a contribution from S106 monies.
- Ysgol Sant Curig – Lighting renewal – Carry forward £56k into the 2023/24 Capital Programme.
- Review alterations of parking permit schemes - Carry forward £55k to 2023/24 Capital Programme.
- Penarth Leisure Centre – High Level Glazing - Carry forward £1,546k into the 2023/24 Capital Programme.
- Barry Regeneration Partnership Fund - Carry forward £689k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- Murchfield Community Sports Facilities - Carry forward £178k into the 2023/24 Capital Programme.

#### Reason for recommendations

(1-4) Having regard to the content of the report on Capital Programme progress, the use of Delegated Authority, the use of Emergency Powers and changes to the Capital Programme.

#### 416 HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY (DEH) –

The Head of Housing and Building Services presented the report to the Committee, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the new Housing Support Programme Strategy (HSP) for the period 2022-2026. This would subsequently be referred to Cabinet for their review and approval following its endorsement by the Committee.

Welsh Government (WG) required all Local Authorities to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy every four years. The document outlined the strategic direction of the Local Authority for housing related support services and provided a single strategic approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services. The main areas of the strategy were based on a template provided by WG, which also satisfied existing statutory requirements under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Strategy took into account how delivery of support was in line with WG's vision and aims for the prevention of homelessness and the move to a rapid re-housing approach (a separate report on which would be presented to the Committee at a later date). The Strategy aimed to ensure that homelessness was experienced by people for as short a time as possible and they had the support necessary in order to sustain their tenancies long term, thereby preventing the risk of future homelessness.

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In order to achieve this Strategy, there had been a significant degree of stakeholder involvement not only with professional partners both internally and externally to the Council, but also with significant numbers of landlords, providers and the individuals who used or wished to use such services. The Council also took, a holistic, 'corporate' approach in order to address the whole and wide range of issues that people may have had that had led them to seek help from the Council concerning housing and homelessness, and to provide them with an effective and 'seamless' service, through effective partnership, working and communication, as well as building an evidence base through needs assessments and service user feedback.

The Strategy consisted of 8 priorities, with a number of actions against these to maximise funding and support on homelessness prevention, minimise evictions, limit homelessness and prevent it being repeated.

Also highlighted were the challenges that the Strategy would need to help address, such as:

- The imbalance between the numbers of single people who presented as homeless at the moment and the amount of accommodation that the Council had to house them (including 90 single people currently in 3 local hotels).
- Pressures on housing within the private rented sector with an increase in Section 21 eviction notices and some anecdotal evidence on the impact of the new Renting Homes legislation on private landlords.
- A mismatch between the number of supported units and the number of clients who highlighted domestic abuse as a key factor in terms of their support.
- There was also an emerging theme of over 55s presenting as homeless with support needs relating to their tenancies.

Overall, this meant that the Council faced challenges with the threshold for statutory service intervention and in terms of resources and accommodation for the rapid rehousing of service users. To address these, the Strategy would look at alternatives to bed and breakfast / hotel accommodation, the ongoing importance of implementing the house building programme, and the potential to develop additional move on accommodation, i.e. the conversion of hotels and guest houses, but also in terms of modular accommodation on various local sites.

Following on from the presentation of the report, the Committee raised the following comments and questions:

- Councillor Carroll queried the Strategy's objective on the purchase of commercial properties to use for temporary accommodation and if this could also be used as a solution for more permanent accommodation for service users. He stated that there were considerable benefits in using converted commercial premises for permanent accommodation in town centres, i.e. accessibility to nearby amenities, access to public transport and other services. The Head of Service agreed this was another option that could be used, with clear benefits (i.e. around the cost of living crisis

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and carbon neutral / zero policies) and that colleagues were looking to convert commercial premises into more permanent accommodation as part of the review of the Local Development Plan (LDP). This would follow a model similar to that undertaken by other Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and other Local Authorities, i.e. Cardiff Council. However, the remodelling of town centres, which included increasing accommodation use, had to be balanced with the need to maintain a strong, vibrant commercial element to these which also clearly benefited the Vale, its residents and businesses.

- On Councillor Hanks' query on the relatively high percentage rate of respondents (62%) detailed in the Needs Assessment of the Strategy who said it was difficult to get in touch with the right person on housing / homelessness services and support, it was explained that the assessment was undertaken prior to the opening of the 'One Stop Shop' in Holton Road, which was now helping to raise awareness among residents of these services, coupled with the action detailed in the Strategy to establish and promote dedicated means of contact for service users at risk of homelessness or requiring housing support.
- On the Councillor's other query on the availability of WG funding for this Strategy, it was explained that the Council, as with other Welsh Local Authorities, were lobbying WG for additional funding for such initiatives, particularly post March 2023 when WG funding streams could potentially end and therefore have a significant impact on Council expenditure and temporary accommodation provision. The costs for Bed and Breakfast accommodation currently stood at £2.3m for the Vale, and the Council had used some of its homelessness reserve funding to continue to pay for such accommodation since the WG funding had been reduced in September, as well as the additional requirements and pressures on housing provision for Ukrainian refugees and others. Funding from WG would also be potentially impacted by funding decisions from the UK Government. In the meantime, the Council was looking to move as many people into alternative forms of accommodation from hotels (helped by WG's relaxing of the standards for move on / temporary accommodation), and under the new Renting Homes Act, the possible use of 3 bedroom and larger Council housing to convert that into some form of shared accommodation with shared services and facilities. Also, the Council had been successful in bidding for funding on the building of modular accommodation on selected sites in the county.
- On Councillor Buckley's query on the nature of the modular accommodation to be used by the Council, i.e. whether this would be 'shipping container' style accommodation, it was explained that this was not the case and the modular accommodation the Council would be adopting was in fact purpose built and could be moved onto the site ready built 'offsite' without the need for any major assembly at the housing site itself. This would be done in collaboration with Cardiff Council and Wates, a private company. There were a number of sites under consideration for modular accommodation in the Vale, with up to 100 units to be constructed. However, these would probably not be delivered until the start of the next financial year due to leading times for the placement of orders and site appraisals. This could possibly be addressed by the use of COVID-19 era legislation in order to attempt to accelerate this process, in terms of planning and procurement.

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- The Vice-Chair (in the Chair) referred to the four-year planning / review cycle for the Strategy and asked what provision the Council had in place in terms of stakeholders' input as part of that review cycle. The Strategy required the Council to provide mid term reports and to review it every two years, and report through to WG in terms of the stakeholder work. It was one of the priority actions in the report around refining that stakeholder analysis and continuing to use mini questionnaires or mini contacts during the four year period to ensure that stakeholder feedback remained relevant as well as the two-year midpoint review. There was also an overarching Housing Forum that reviewed the operational elements of the Strategy and Scrutiny would also have a potential role in providing strategic oversight, with the Head of Housing and Building Services suggesting that the Committee could receive an update on a six-monthly basis during the lifetime of the Strategy.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the priority themes and objectives to be included in the Housing Support Programme Strategy be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft Housing Support Programme Strategy be endorsed for referral to Cabinet for approval and adoption.
- (3) T H A T a report be provided to the Scrutiny Committee on a six-monthly basis in order to be kept updated on the progress of the Housing Support Programme Strategy and its Action Plan.

#### 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 Housing Support Programme Strategy for approval and adoption.
- (3) To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is kept updated on the progress of the Housing Support Programme Strategy and its Action Plan.

#### 417 THE 'VALUE IN THE VALE' VOLUNTEERING SCHEME (DEH) –

The report was presented to the Committee jointly by the Operational Manager, Public Housing Services and the Digital Engagement and Volunteering Officer.

The purpose of the report was to share progress to date regarding the development and implementation of the 'Value in the Vale' volunteering scheme, which would build upon, improve and expand the previous, successful, Timebanking scheme offered in the Vale of Glamorgan.

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The Value in the Vale scheme would support Vale residents break down barriers they may face with volunteering in order to improve their confidence, build up their skills, reduce social isolation, loneliness, improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing, to build up their skills for job CVs, etc. The groups the scheme aimed to reach out to, and help, included vulnerable persons, those not currently in employment, people with low self-esteem and those experiencing poorer mental health.

Previously, Timebanking (via 'Tempo' a social enterprise) was restricted to Council Housing tenants due to its funding coming from the Housing Revenue Account. Also, the vouchers / rewards that volunteers could redeem for their volunteering work were not always locally based nor easily accessible and not necessarily of relevance or benefit to them. Due to this, and in conjunction with the Public Services Board (PSB) and funding provided by Public Health Wales, the Value in the Vale scheme was developed to succeed the Timebanking model principally by expanding the ability to volunteer to all residents in the Vale, not just Council Tenants, the recruitment of a dedicated project officer to help deliver this scheme with local residents and partners and to enable residents to redeem the vouchers and the rewards they earned under the scheme at local businesses and facilities. This would also provide positive results and benefits to the local economy and communities, i.e. increasing footfall to local businesses and free advertising as well as businesses being able to give back to their local communities. Also, due to the impact of Covid-19 and to encourage greater accessibility and engagement, an online, digital side of the scheme had also been developed, enabling people to find volunteering opportunities, to track their volunteering activity and to redeem vouchers online as well. The related web page developed gave residents access to various parts of the scheme, i.e. an 'Organisations' tab or section for them to look at volunteering opportunities they would like to join and a 'Volunteers' section, which provided some examples of 'good news' stories on the positive benefits that volunteers had received from joining the scheme. The scheme was also linked to various social media, with over 5,000 page 'reaches' on its Facebook page alone.

Other benefits identified from the scheme included the ability of volunteers to 'gift back' any rewards received which could help vulnerable members of the community, i.e. Morrisons offered a toiletry bag (which included shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and deodorant) that could be donated back to a local foodbank. Also, by offering free drinks, etc. as part of the rewards scheme, this helped to encourage participants to socialise. Rewards, in terms of offering 'warm spaces' to help volunteers with the cost of living crisis and rising energy bills were also being considered. The scheme also offered free accredited training for volunteers, which had been extremely popular.

Following on from the presentation of the report, the Committee raised the following comments and questions:

- Councillor Buckley, as the Vale's Mental Health Champion, wished to thank the staff and others involved in the Value in the Vale scheme for their work which had made a positive contribution by providing a 'non-chemical intervention' or alternative for those with lower end mental health

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- challenges, i.e. anxiety, through outdoor volunteering work and activities, as well as improving volunteers' employability and education / skills prospects.
- Councillor Morgan wished to commend the scheme and the presenting officers on their inspirational talk and work on this, as well as praising the accessibility of the related website and the importance of this Scheme in helping people with their health, wellbeing and offering support as part of the cost of living crisis and its overall contribution on helping to strengthen local residents and their communities ability to help each other. It was important for Members to 'spread the word' on the benefits of this scheme to their residents.
  - Councillor Hennessy, as a previous Timebanking volunteer, commended the scheme, its benefits to volunteers and the wider community and the website.
  - The Vice-Chair (in the Chair) referred to the topic of social isolation, in particular rural isolation within the Western Vale, and despite its image of being an affluent area, people located there still faced challenges and may had complex needs that also needed to be addressed. They queried what the uptake was in this area for the Value in the Vale Scheme and how it could reach out to residents in such rural areas. It was explained that various measures had been taken to target and engage with rural areas, i.e. digital engagement within the Vale's sheltered schemes (such as at Cowbridge and Llantwit Major) using volunteers to help provide 'drop-in' sessions to older residents in order to help them set up email accounts or order prescriptions online. Other work included linking in with the local Rotary clubs to help provide 'coffee mornings' and other events or support to the rural shelter schemes. In order to overcome the transport barriers that volunteers in the rural Vale may face in being able to participate in the scheme or redeem their rewards, they could use the Greenlinks Community Transport scheme. The Vice-Chair, as the Vale's Older Persons' Champion, suggested linking in with the scheme to help support this under-represented group.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report highlighting the progress to date implementing the 'Value in the Vale' volunteering scheme be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

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

#### 418 YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE: 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2022 (DSS) –

The report was presented by the Youth Offending Service Manager to inform Committee about the performance of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) during the period April 2021 – March 2022. As part of the grant funding terms and conditions, the YOS was required by the Youth Justice Board to undertake performance reporting in relation to a number of key performance indicators.

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Performance was always approximately one quarter behind because of the need for the Youth Justice Board to validate data before circulation.

Key highlights of performance included a significant decrease in first time entrants into the Youth Justice system compared to the same period last year. This was a positive development and because it highlighted the effectiveness of the Council's preventative and diversionary services in stopping children from coming into the Youth Justice System in the first place.

There had also been a reduction in the numbers of children reoffending and the number of re-offences committed, although there was a slight rise in the reoffending rate over the same period, but this could be accounted for due to the increase in the number of children in the cohort.

Other highlights for the period included that no children had been subject to a custodial sentence, i.e. non-custodial alternatives had been used instead. Although engagement in education, training and employment rates among children and young people did decline by then end of their intervention, this in part reflected the relevant small numbers involved and did not accurately reflect the amount of work that went in from the Education Department and from YOS in trying to support and maintain children within appropriate educational provision. Suitable accommodation, support for dealing with substance misuse and mental health indicators were also referred which overall had been positive, but key challenges remained, as in the case of substance misuse support, due to changes in commissioning arrangements but these were being resolved (i.e. through the recruitment of a new specialist Substance Misuse Worker).

In terms of access to Restorative Justice, the low numbers of victims fully engaged in this process was due in part to it being a voluntary arrangement for both victim and child offender and the significant impact of COVID-19 on the ability for face to face, direct restorative justice. Due to this, there would be a greater focus on victim engagement and meeting their needs going forward.

Finally, YOS had received a full inspection, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, in April 2022 which highlighted the very positive work undertaken by the Vale of Glamorgan YOS and partner agencies. The Inspectorate rated the services provided as "GOOD" in the overall rating and identified significant areas of strength, for example in relation to partnership working. An Action Plan had been put in place in relation to the six recommendations made by the Inspectorate.

Following on from the presentation of the report, the Committee raised the following comments and questions:

- On Councillor Hanks' query regarding the decrease in numbers of first-time entrants and if COVID-19 was a contributory factor, it was explained that although the pandemic may have had a small influence on the low numbers, overall, this was due to the significant, targeted, diversionary and prevention work undertaken by YOS and others.

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- On the Councillor's further query regarding no children being subject to a custodial sentence during this period and the impact of the backlog in cases going to Court on this figure, it was explained that the backlog was more within the area of matters under investigation earlier on in the process, rather than going to court itself. Also, Vale YOS had offered a robust approach in offering strong community sentencing and other non-custodial alternatives in conjunction with the courts, police and other partner services. The recent inspection was also satisfied that should a child be sentenced to custody that YOS would be able to mobilise a highly effective response.
- On the Councillor's final query concerning the low response to the victim questionnaire and what could be done to address this, it was explained that victim engagement could be extremely difficult and had been exacerbated by the pandemic, but the service was looking at ways to improve this, i.e. making follow up calls to victims after receiving their initial victim letter and the recruitment of an additional Victim Officer, who along with the other Victim Officer, had been extremely pro-active with victim engagement.
- On Councillor Carroll's query regarding the length of time between full inspections, it was explained that between full inspections, each YOS remained under significant scrutiny and received a number of thematic inspections (including ones based on tiers or grades of inspection) as well as stringent performance monitoring by the Youth Justice Board on a quarterly basis and the YOS Management Board. The Vale YOS also worked to best practice and took an 'inspection – ready' approach at all times.
- On the Councillor's follow up query on when the Committee would receive a follow up update on the progress made by YOS, post-inspection, it was explained that there was an Inspection Action Plan in place (submitted in August 2022), with Vale staff / Youth Justice Board / other agency representatives identified to lead on each of the relevant areas of the Action Plan. The full inspection had also covered all partner agencies (i.e. Police and health). A number of actions / recommendations from the inspection had already been completed and a framework put in place to address the remaining actions and recommendations. An update would be provided to the Committee at a later date.
- Vice-Chair (in the Chair) asked if the inspection highlighted any potential gaps in resources and related pressures which could have impacted the YOS' overall performance and therefore would need to be considered as part of the Action Plan. In response, it was explained that the inspection found that the Vale YOS and its partners did have the appropriate resources in place to maintain strong performance. Any staffing and resourcing 'gaps' had been the result of recruitment issues rather than limits on resourcing per se.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the contents of the performance report for the Youth Offending Service during the period April 2021 – March 2022 be noted.

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Reason for recommendation

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