

No.

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 8th September, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); Councillor H.M. Payne (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, E.J. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, H.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, N.B. Marshallsea, J.M. Norman. and E. Penn.

Co-opted Members: Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church) and L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector).

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

247 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.”

248 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors W. Gilligan and R.E. Godfrey; R. Morteo (Church in Wales) and G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education).

249 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

250 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

No.

251 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
CALENDAR (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 7th July, 2022 was presented by The Director of Corporate Resources.

Appendix A to the report proposed an approach to engaging with Members on the Council's Performance Management Framework through the Annual Performance Calendar of activities in order 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 wellbeing of its citizens.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Chair asked whether The Director was satisfied with the Self-Assessment process, and whether they saw any potential for improvement of such work. To this point, The Director highlighted that the report before Committee was the first Annual Self-Assessment Report produced under new legislation, and that it was anticipated that there would be an element of learning after the process was complete; when a de-brief could take place, and other Local Authorities' approaches to Annual Self-Assessment reporting could be reflected upon. The Director added that it had been a worthwhile approach to Self-Assessment across the five Vale of Glamorgan Council Directorates, and that work alongside other Local Authorities to understand how they were also approaching this work had been undertaken.

Councillor Payne thanked The Director for the presentation and added that they welcomed opportunities for members of the committee to be involved in the Self-Assessment process. The Director confirmed that there had been such an opportunity for all Elected Members during Council Recess and that a replicated opportunity would be scheduled for 2023.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar 2022/23 and the proposed approach to engaging with Members in-year to shape and refine the Annual Performance Calendar and associated processes, plans and reports be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the Cabinet report to meet the new performance requirements in line with Section 114 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

252 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
(REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 21st July, 2022 was presented by The Director of Corporate Resources.

No.

The referred Cabinet report brought to the attention of the Committee the Council's progress against the Welsh Language Standards (Appendix 1) and the Council's Promotional Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan (Appendix 2) for 2021/22. It summarised the main areas where progress had been made and provided an annual update required by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Following The Director's presentation, the Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language highlighted the benefit of allowing Vale of Glamorgan Council staff the opportunity to learn Welsh during the working day. They also advised that a report on Welsh Language Standards had been taken to Welsh Government, with any suggestions for improvement successfully acted upon.

In relation to a query from Councillor Hodges, The Director confirmed that there were no financial implications of the report itself, but the Council had a number of budgets to support the promotion of the Welsh language amongst staff and Elected Members.

Councillor Goodjohn advised that they had been participating in the Welsh Language lessons as mentioned in the report, and had found them to be an excellent opportunity to develop their Welsh Language skills.

In response to a query from the Chair, The Director advised that members of staff would undertake their learning of the Welsh Language at their own pace. However, the learning pace would be monitored more closely where there were specific Welsh language requirements for a staffing position.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Annual Welsh Monitoring Report for 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1 to the referred Cabinet report, as well as the Update on the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the Cabinet report to meet the reporting duty to the Welsh Commissioner as part of the Welsh Language Standards.

This meeting was adjourned at 18:33 during Member debate on Agenda Item 6 following the public announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II and will be reconvened at a date to be confirmed.