

LIVE WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 27th May, 2025.

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

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

Present: Councillor A.M. Collins (Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, C.A. Cave, S.M. Hanks, W.A. Hennessy, S. Lloyd-Selby, B. Loveluck-Edwards, J. Lynch-Wilson, M.J.G. Morgan and N.C. Thomas.

Also Present: Councillors J. Aviet, R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), J.E. Charles, C.M. Cowpe, E.J. Goodjohn, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), Dr. I.J. Johnson, H.M. Payne, S.D. Perkes (Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

70 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”.

71 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Councillor B. Loveluck-Edwards be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.

72 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee held on 1st April, 2025 and the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd April, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor Lloyd-Selby declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 – Performance Evaluation Inspection of Vale of Glamorgan Social Services Update – and Agenda Item 8 – Social Services Director’s Report – Challenge Version in that the Councillor had relatives in receipt of social care packages. Councillor Lloyd-Selby had dispensation to speak and vote and remained in the meeting for the items.

74 REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION – COLCOT SPORTS CENTRE: NEXT STEPS –

Cabinet, on 19th December, 2024, considered a report that recommended that the proposed scheme for the Colcot and Buttrills recreation grounds, were not progressed.

Subsequently, two requests for a further Scrutiny report on the future of the sites were received, separately by Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson and jointly from Councillors B. Loveluck-Edwards and E.J. Goodjohn. Following consultation with each Councillor it was agreed that these requests would be combined into one report.

The Operational Manager for Healthy Living and Performance advised that the report detailed the work that would be undertaken to address the issues raised by both the December 2024 Cabinet report, and the information requested for the Scrutiny report, which included meetings already held and planned meetings with existing users of the site, additional potential funding options and relevant consultation.

Cabinet had also requested that a further report on the future of the site be presented at a later date, to detail options and consideration for the provision of modern facilities that served communities in the wider context, and the recommendations presented to the Committee reflected as such.

Following the Officer's presentation of the report, each of the Councillors who had submitted a request for consideration in relation to the matter addressed the Committee on the following matters:

- The sports facilities at the Colcot and Buttrills sites were located in the north of Barry and naturally had their neighbours, and they were an investment in health and well-being for the whole of the town and the wider community.
- The Colcot Sports Centre was more than 60 years old and well beyond its usable lifespan. In 2021 the boiler was condemned because of safety concerns. It was a dark and grim building which had barely changed since the 1980s and was not the modern 21st century building you would expect to be the sporting hub for Wales's largest town.
- The Colcot Sports Centre was also not a welcoming environment for women's and girls' football which was the main anticipated growth area for sports, particularly following Wales's qualification for this year's European Championships.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson welcomed investment which would allow local football clubs to progress through the Welsh football pyramid system with facilities that would allow increased women's and veterans football to play in Barry rather than forcing them to travel to Cardiff. That would be a significant improvement with the appropriate spectator facilities that would be expected and available all year round.
- Holton Road Football Club, who were the main users of the grass and so-called barrier pitch at the Colcot site were unable to play a single home game between the end of November 2023 and mid-April 2024 last season.

- There also seemed to be no particular plans for the Buttrills Field site and Councillor Dr. Johnson expressed their worry that those pitches were being forgotten about for the moment.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson would be interested to hear about the plans for the current Colcot Sports Centre users while plans set out in the report were progressed and an idea of time scale would also be welcomed.
- Councillors Loveluck-Edwards and Goodjohn requested that the report be considered by the Scrutiny Committee to ensure that they were kept aware of any proposals that were being put forward for the site, based on all voices of residents in their ward area and not just the particular residents that had raised concerns with them.
- Concerns had been raised by residents in relation to the sort of proposed changes and plans for the site but also on the longevity of the site and the fact that there was still a large number of people who used the site for various purposes.
- Ward Members were seeking confirmation on whether there was any scope for looking outside of the Council to potential partners to see if there was any opportunity to enable the Council to secure funding. Because, as a Council, we worked well in partnership and that would be a key consideration moving forward to secure funding and safeguard the future of the Colcot site.

In response, the Operational Manager for Healthy Living and Performance advised that the motivation and reasoning behind the original Cabinet report was to increase opportunities for all users in terms of physical activity and to address the situation of the facilities that were currently on offer which officers agreed were not ideal. The difficulties in terms of providing facilities at the Buttrills site came down to the extremely high costs related to drainage works that would be required to comply with suds legislation. The Council had been speaking to potential partners, as detailed in the report, in relation to both the Buttrills site and Colcot artificial turf site, and discussions were ongoing. The Council had two free large full size 3G pitches in the immediate area on neighbouring school sites but neither of those particular facilities could provide home facilities for Holton Road and other clubs who aspired to go up the football pyramid because of the requirements that were placed on teams in relation to the provision of a grandstand / spectator facilities. Officers would be unable to give specifics in terms of deadlines for grant applications at the current time as the Council was required to undertake more consultation in terms of the site and we're eager to do some local consultation bearing in mind the expressions / comments that had come from the community.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing also addressed the Committee to express their agreement on the comments raised by Members thus far and shared Councillor Dr. Johnson's support of promoting local football, however, noted that the Council did not have the financial resources available to progress at the current time. The Cabinet Member also expressed their wish for new facilities at the Buttrills site, especially in recognition of providing adequate female changing facilities, but the Council was not able to source adequate funding at the current time.

In conclusion, Councillor Hennessy questioned whether the Council would be breaking the covenant that was in place on a section of the Colcot Sports Centre site

if changes to the site progressed. In response, the Operational Manager for Healthy Living and Performance advised that the Fields in Trust covenant related to the building on the site only and not the grounds. Therefore, any covenant would not be broken but rather amended to hopefully include any future improvement works to changing facilities. However, the Council required extra funds in order to increase opportunities on the site in line with the covenant.

With no further comments or questions raised, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T both the Member Requests for Consideration and subsequent Response Report be noted.
- (2) T H A T it be recommended to Cabinet that discussions progress with key partners, and potential funding opportunities, with the aim of providing quality facilities in the long term at the site.
- (3) T H A T Cabinet be requested to give approval for a no obligation expression of interest to be submitted to the Cymru Football Foundation in relation to investigations for developing the surplus Artificial Turf Pitch at the site, into a 3G facility, and to provide new changing rooms on the existing Colcot site, with the understanding that other considerations regarding the use of the area in the long-term also require evaluation.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of all papers submitted.
- (2) To advise of the interest in the site prior to a further report being prepared on the site as requested in the December 2024 Cabinet Report.
- (3) To ensure that proposals for the site were appropriately considered.

75 SOCIAL CARE RECORDS SYSTEM (DSS) –

The Director of Social Services presented the report, the purpose of which provided an update on the report which had been provided to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in October 2024 regarding the Social Care records system. Currently the Council was contracted to CareDirector (more commonly known as WCCIS (the Welsh Community Care Information System)).

The previous report outlined the situation regarding progress towards replacing the system and the need to urgently complete the procurement process as well as an update on the work that had been undertaken to begin the implementation of the new system following the conclusion of the procurement process. The Director added that since the previous consideration of the report, the Council had now completed the relevant partnership procurement exercise and had appointed Access Group with use of the Mosaic software.

Following the Officer's presentation of the report, Councillor Lloyd-Selby queried why the referenced project plan was only stated as being in draft and also, how far along in the migration process would the Council be expected to implement mitigation actions if required. In response, the Director advised that a detailed project plan had been organised and the process for migrating data was now under way. It was not possible for officers to give an exact completion date, as some elements of the plan were still under development. The Council was working with 17 other Local Authorities for implementation and were managing risks collectively. In terms of governance, the Vale of Glamorgan Council had its own Project Group and also attended a regional project group as well as the SRO group across Wales and the Social Care Social Services Board.

Councillor Loveluck-Edwards then queried when the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) would determine costs to support implementation. In response, the Director advised that funds of £336k should be made available to the Council in the near future for retrospective funding for the 2024/25 financial year. Funds had not yet been agreed for the 2025/26 financial year.

With no further comments or questions raised, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the work being undertaken to implement the new Social Care system be noted.
- (2) T H A T the challenging timescale for completion of the implementation, and the potential risk in this not being achieved, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the financial position regarding the implementation be noted.
- (4) T H A T the Committee remains informed of progress in relation to implementation of the new Social Care Records System as and when appropriate.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and the progress being made to implement a replacement social care system as requested.
- (2) To ensure Committee Members were sighted on the challenges in achieving the preferred timescales.
- (3) To ensure that the Council was using its resources appropriately and maximising the opportunities to attract funding from Welsh Government.
- (4) To ensure that Members of the Committee receive progress updates, subject to appropriate confidentiality, and any future mitigations that may need to be implemented.

76 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION OF VALE OF GLAMORGAN SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE (DSS) –

The report provided an update regarding the progress in delivering actions to fulfil the identified areas of improvement determined as part of the performance evaluation of Social Services which took place in January 2023.

The Director advised that an update had been provided in May 2024 and this update now concluded the actions against the areas of improvement identified by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Following the Director's presentation of the report, Members of the Committee passed their thanks and complements to staff for completing all tasks and for continuing to maintain progress.

In response to a point raised by Councillor Lloyd-Selby in relation to a number of responses being referred to as reviewing or strengthening on practices, and the question of how departments were monitoring progress to ensure work was having a positive effect, the Director added that the relevant supervision monitoring group provided assurance against a regular quality assurance framework which provided relevant officers with valuable feedback.

With no further comments or questions raised, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the progress against the identified areas of improvement developed by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report to ensure that Members remained informed of the progress as requested by the previous Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in May 2024.

77 SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – CHALLENGE VERSION (DSS) –

The Challenge Version of the Director's Report, as presented, allowed Members and stakeholders an opportunity to comment and inform a future final draft which would be considered by Cabinet.

The Director apprised the Committee on the various sections and content of the detailed appended report.

Following the Director's presentation, Councillor Lynch-Wilson thanked the Director for a thorough and positive report and commended the use of graphs to differentiate between Children and Adult data.

Councillor Hanks then asked after the measures that the Directorate would be taking in the year ahead to reduce the number of Children Looked After by the Local

Authority. In response, the Director advised that there were a number of initiatives that the Children and Young People Services team were working on such as helping children to leave care arrangements at the age of 18 as well as working with pre-birth mothers to embed support much earlier and increase the likelihood of families staying together. Therefore, there were multiple initiatives at play.

In conclusion, Councillor Lloyd Selby then referred to the Council's corporate self-assessment process and related score matrix and queried why this information was not presented within the Challenge Version of the report. In reply, the Director advised that the corporate self-assessment monitoring process would still be taking place but as a separate process to the report. The Director advised of their wish to provide the reader with relevant numbers and trends to allow the reader to make their own conclusions and highlighted that the Director's Challenge Version report presented additional objectives to those set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

With no further comments or questions raised, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the content of the appended 2024/25 Director's Report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report to provide Elected Members with an opportunity to contribute to the challenge process for the Director's Annual Report 2024-2025.

78 LIVE WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 (DSS) –

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer drew Members' attention to the draft Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2025/26, attached at Appendix A to the report, and advised that Members of the Committee were asked to consider the contents for approval.

In addition, the Committee was asked to note the remit of the Live Well Scrutiny Committee, as shown in paragraph 1.2 of the covering report, following changes as a result of the Council's Reshaping Scrutiny Proposals recently approved by Full Council, the context of which was set out in the covering report.

Committee were also requested to consider future arrangements for the following inherited Working Groups from the previous Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee:

- Leisure Management Contract (paragraphs 1.4 and 2.10).
- Budget (paragraphs 1.5 and 2.11).

In conclusion, the Officer invited suggestions from the Committee in relation to co-opted membership on the Committee as well as suggestions for Task and Finish work and advised that suggestions could also be forwarded to them in writing

following the meeting. In relation to Task and Finish suggestions, any suggestions raised would be discussed with relevant service area officers following the meeting and a subsequent scoping exercise report brought to the Committee at its July meeting for further consideration.

Councillor Loveluck-Edwards then raised a Task and Finish Work suggestion as follows:

Equal Opportunities and Accessibility in the Sports and Leisure Sector for Underrepresented Groups –

Including a focus on disabled persons and female service user participation levels to help mitigate inactivity and poor health in both young and mature service users. As well as looking at both informal or organised sport to help reduce sedentary lifestyles and increase social participation, that in turn could reduce feelings of anxiety and loneliness.

With no further comments, questions or suggestions raised, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2025/26 (Appendix A to the report) be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the remit of the Live Well Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (3) T H A T the Members of the Live Well Leisure Management Contract Working Group be appointed as follows: A.M. Collins (Chair), B. Loveluck-Edwards (Vice-Chair), C.A. Cave, W.A. Hennessy, J. Lynch-Wilson and N.C. Thomas.
- (4) T H A T the inherited Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee Budget Working Group be disbanded.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To agree the items, topics, Task and Finish review investigations, co-opted membership and delivery methods that the Live Well Scrutiny Committee would consider for the 2025/26 Municipal year.
- (2) To note the changes in remit for the new Live Well Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) In preparation for future Leisure Centre visit arrangements following Committee Membership, as agreed at the 7th May, 2025 Council Annual Meeting.
- (4) In recognition of the new Scrutiny arrangements for the Council.