

No.

## VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair); Councillor I.R. Buckley (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors G. Bruce, A.M. Collins, J.M. Norman and J. Protheroe.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: L. Newton (Cardiff and Vale Action for  
Mental Health) and Councillor C. Hawkins (Town and Community Council  
Representative).

### 481 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”.

### 482 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor L. Burnett; R. Connor (Glamorgan Voluntary Services) and H. Smith (Barnardos).

### 483 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### 484 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 485 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 as contained within the agenda was presented. Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the report be referred to the Voluntary Sector

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Joint Liaison Committee for their information and consideration. The Policy Officer said it was the first Annual report of the new Wellbeing Plan and the report set out the work of the Public Services Board (PSB). Section 2 was the main body of the report which provided progress updates on the work to deliver the PSB's three priority workstreams, project details and the next steps going forward. 19 steps had been identified by the PSB to deliver the Wellbeing Objectives were outlined within the report. Following a query from Councillor Bruce as to the name of the officer involved in the work to tackle inequities in deprived communities, Sarah Cutting from the Regeneration and Planning Department was noted as the officer to contact.

It was further noted that at Section 3 of the report the PSB had continued to develop its evidence base and to use the data to develop better insights and to inform activities. In conclusion the officer referred to Section 4 of the report, highlighting the work ahead and ambitions for the future.

The Chair enquired as to how much of a relationship was the PSB enabled to have with the Health Board as some of the achievements / aspirations were not achievable without their support. The Policy Officer in response said it was about the pooling of resources, noting that a number of the partnership projects would be supported by the Health Board, with the Director stating that the PSB was a useful forum where mutual concerns could be raised highlighting that the work could not be done in isolation. The Chair subsequently queried the timeline for progress to be made in relation to the work. The Director responded by saying that progress against the work of the PSB was continually ongoing and the Health Board provided a huge contribution to this. With regard to the Chair's query relating to progress in respect of the Penarth Health Centre, it was agreed that the Director would seek a response from the Health Board and advise Members accordingly.

Councillor Protheroe, concerned with issues around collaboration and pooling of resources, asked where the PSB was with collaboration, where resources could be pooled with all working together. The Policy Officer said the Annual Report provided examples of current projects where work was being undertaken together and where opportunities for organisations to network and make new links could be pursued.

AGREED – T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board Annual report be noted in recognising the work undertaken and the future opportunities to be progressed.

#### Reason for decision

Having regard to the content of the PSB Annual Report and discussions at the meeting.

486 RESHAPING PROGRAMME; STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES – A RESPONSE TO AUDIT WALES REPORTS ON TACKLING POVERTY AND THIRD SECTOR WORKING (REF) –

Cabinet, on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, had referred the report to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee for their information and consideration, with any views to be

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referred back to Cabinet for further consideration. The Policy Officer, in presenting the report, advised that in October 2023 a report on Strengthening Communities, Work to Tackle Poverty and the Cost-of-Living Crisis was considered by Cabinet. That report had detailed the work being undertaken by the Council and the proposed approach to responding to four Audit Wales reports. As a result, the Cwmpas Development Agency had been commissioned on behalf of the Council to undertake a programme of engagement. The engagement work focused on the recommendations contained within the Audit reports as well as working with the Third Sector. The findings and recommendations of Cwmpas could be found at Appendices A and B to the report.

The Chair said that she was very interested in what work was to be undertaken with the Education Department in relation to tackling poverty. The Director said that the Cwmpas report provided an integrated approach with schools, advising that the Director of Learning and Skills was keen to support schools, having regard to the Community Focused Schools model.

Councillor Protheroe commenting that she welcomed the report however, recognised that the Council needed to do more with Social Enterprises and enquired as to what more the Council could be able to offer and how was the Council going to plan and commission quotes and tenders to assist organisations to bid. The Director advised that the work being undertaken with the Section 16 Forum could assist here with bringing Social Enterprise colleagues in at the very early stages as well as considering what different approaches could be undertaken going forward.

Linda Newton (Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health) said she thought it was a very positive report and welcomed further dialogue to be also undertaken going forward commenting that it was important to ensure smaller groups also had a voice.

Councillor Conway Hawkins, the Town and Community Council representative, in referring to the proposed Community Asset Transfer review, enquired as to the process and timeline for the work and with regard to the Voluntary Sector Compact he said the Cwmpas report advised that it should be renewed but that the decision had been made to not progress it. The Policy Officer said principles within the Compact, would be taken forward within the Corporate Plan with the intention of engaging further with other organisations. With regard to the review of the Community Asset Transfer process, the Director advised that although the current process was useful there were a variety of ways to work with organisations that could be quicker in process with discussions having recently been held with the organisation One Voice Wales regarding what types of procedures / processes could be introduced and also having regard to examples of good practice.

AGREED – T H A T the report be noted and a further update on progress being made be brought to the April 2025 meeting of the Committee.

#### Reason for decision

Having regard to the content of the report, the presentation and to provide Committee with an update on progress.

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487 CELT PROJECT – VERBAL UPDATE FROM RACHEL CONNOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN RESPECT OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR’S WORK WITH THE CELT PROJECT –

As the Chief Executive of Glamorgan Voluntary Services was not present it was

AGREED – T H A T if there was a timescale issue, the Chief Executive of Glamorgan Voluntary Services be requested to prepare an update to be circulated to Members of the Committee or the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

488 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

489 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (REF) –

**(Urgent in order for the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee to consider the report during the consultation period)**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, had referred the report to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee as part of the programme of consultation, requesting that any comments be shared with the Director of Corporate Resources in order to inform revisions to the Corporate Plan, prior to Cabinet considering a final draft in due course. The Director, in presenting the report, provided a PowerPoint presentation to Members of the Committee which detailed the structure of the Corporate Plan which included plans for the future, he also highlighted the wellbeing objectives and the works required associated to the objectives as well as the Council’s commitments to those working with the Council.

In conclusion the Director highlighted the timetable for the Plan as follows –

- 10<sup>th</sup> October – Cabinet approve draft Plan for consultation;
- 14<sup>th</sup> October – Consultation launches;
- 8<sup>th</sup> December – Consultation closes;
- December / January – Plan revised post consultation;
- 19<sup>th</sup> February – CPR Scrutiny Committee consider outcome of consultation and revised Plan;
- 20<sup>th</sup> February – Cabinet consider revised Plan and consultation outcomes;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Council approve new Plan;
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – Plan published.

Councillor Protheroe commented that it was a really good Corporate Plan, it was very clear about the Council’s ambitions, and she was looking forward to seeing how outcomes would be measured. She further enquired as to whether there were any proposed benchmarks in order to measure what progress was being made. The

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Director advised that there were a range of measures to be put in place with baselines also being established to measure progress.

Councillor Buckley was also impressed by the Plan and was looking forward to the progress and difference it could make.

Following the discussion it was

AGREED – T H A T in acknowledging that the consultation had commenced, the report be noted.

Reason for decision

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