

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting held on 23 October, 2017.

Present: Councillor J. Thomas (Chairman), Councillor H. Jarvie (Vice – Chairman)  
Councillors: J. Bird, A. Parker and B. Penrose.

Apologies: Councillors: G. Cox, G. Kemp.

**C103 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**C104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations were received.

**C105 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE -**

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 September, 2017 were submitted.

Present:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr. A. Parker (Chairman)       |  |
| Mrs. C. Dimond (Vice-Chairman) | Cardiff Flood Action Committee         |
| Mrs. N. De Longhi              | Natural Resources Wales                |
| Mr. N.Ajax Lewis MBE           | Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales |
| Commodore D.H. Cairncross      | Cardiff Bay Yacht Club                 |
| Mr. C. Michael                 | RSPB                                   |

Also present:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Mr. A. Vye-Parminter | Harbour Master, Cardiff Harbour Authority                            |
| Mr. P. Gough         | Natural Resources Wales  |
| Mrs. K. Bowen        | Vale of Glamorgan Council (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer) |

(a) Apologies for Absence –

These were received from Councillor J. Bird (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Mr. S. Clarke (Chief Executive Officer, Canoe Wales), Mrs. S. Jones (Marina Manager), Mr. J. Maidment (Cardiff Harbour Authority), Councillor M. Michael (Cardiff Council), Mrs. S. Newbold (British Marine Federation and Wales Yachting Association),

(b) Minutes –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

(c) Matters Arising –

The Vice-Chairman referred to the report on ground water monitoring, in particular to the de-watering wells in Grangetown and requested that the item be agendaed for the March meeting of the Committee.

(d) Navigational Safety: Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Mr. A. Vye-Parminter referred to the following:

- Dredging of the Castle stop, its approaches and Taff Mead had been completed successfully to allow safe operations for hopefully another three to four years;
- Over the summer the Harbour Management team had worked with South Wales Police regarding speeding on the rivers. This had been successful as a deterrent and the Harbour Authority would be looking to continue this next season;
- Successful water based events were now complete with British Water skiing having taken place the previous week and ESS and the Harbour Festival over the Bank Holiday and British water skiing ;
- The team had featured on “Cardiff Bay lives” on BBC with positive exposure for the Harbour showing the work going on behind the scenes.

(e) Progress Report: Cardiff Harbour Authority –

Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve had been awarded Green Flag status along with Cardiff Barrage and Flat Holm.

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, the Barrage Café was delivered to site. Works to secure the structure, electrically connect and furnish the café would continue with a fit out completion date of 12<sup>th</sup> October.

AGREED – T H A T the update reports be noted and congratulations extended to the officers for the good work being undertaken.

(f) Presentation from Mr. P. Gough, Principal Fisheries Advisor, Natural Resources Wales, on the State of the Fisheries in the Bay –

Mr. Gough provided the Committee with a slide presentation and referred to, in the first instance, the historical issues in and around the Taff. He advised Committee of the fish monitoring programme and the results being received, which were depicted in pictures to illustrate the monitoring undertaken. Public money had been invested to improve the fish supply in the River Taff and he could confirm that as far back as 1861 the Government had then been worried about the salmon population and at that time had appointed a Salmon Fisheries Commission. Industrialisation around the Taff had led to issues of water quality and, in particular, the people population and factories earlier in the century had caused a considerable number of issues for the water quality, with the presentation providing statistical information as a result. By 1919 the number of issues had been reduced and stricter water controls had been introduced and, in particular, the end of the industrious factories had taken place.

Following the Barrage proposals in the 1990s monitoring programmes were put in place and good returns are continually being received. To date a number of fish passes have been renewed and some established with monitoring identifying that the salmon use the fish passes well, although sea trout have more difficulty.

For monitoring purposes radio transmitters have also been fitted to the salmon and a number of lessons have been learned from the fish swimming up the Taff, to advise how the Barrage should operate. A fish counter system had also been developed as outlined by the Cardiff Barrage Act.

Good relationships continued to be maintained between Natural Resources Wales and Cardiff Harbour Authority, and good salmon stock continues to address sustainability in the Taff.

Some of the threats referred Mr Gough advised referred to the fact that it was not a perfect habitat, and as such affected the salmon numbers also high climate change with high temperatures actually affected the fish from spawning. Marine conditions

were therefore profoundly important. A continuous problem with litter was also an issue, but considerable work was being undertaken to try to reduce the .

Following the presentation the Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr. Gough for a thoroughly interesting and detailed account of the work being undertaken to ensure the increase in fish migration within the Taff.

(g) Update Report: Natural Resources Wales –

Ms. De Longhi advised that there were no issues or pollution incidents to report.

(h) Any Other Business –

It was suggested that the World Fish Migration Day hosted with Harbour events be encouraged to be held again in April 2018 and that publicity for the event be made as wide as possible.

The Chairman referred to a recent conference that he had attended on developing the Well-being Plan which included reference to encouraging young people to consider sustainable issues and, in particular, he felt that the work of Natural Resources Wales and the Cardiff Harbour Authority should be promoted. The Chairman agreed to forward the details of the Plan and the conference to the officers of Cardiff Harbour Authority and Natural Resources Wales.

(i) Date of Next Meeting –

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 5.15 p.m. at Cardiff International White Water.

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RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the minutes.

## **C106 LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT PANEL -**

The minutes of the Local Authority Governor Appointment Panel meeting held on 4 October, 2017 were submitted.

Present: Councillor R.A. Penrose (Chairman, Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture); Councillors Mrs. P. Drake (Substituting for Councillor L. Burnett), N.P. Hodges, G.C. Kemp, Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn and Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

Also present: Mrs. M. Gibbs (Vale Governors Association), Councillor J.C. Bird (Substituting for Councillors G.C. Kemp and Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn) and Mrs. S. Perkes (Substituting for Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson).

(a) Apology for Absence -

This was received from Councillor L. Burnett.

(b) Declarations of Interest -

The following Members declared an interest as Governors of schools as outlined below and vacated the room when the relevant school was being considered:

Councillor Mrs. P. Drake - Holton Primary School  
Councillor N.P. Hodges - Ysgol Gwaun y Nant and Ysgol Sant Baruc  
Councillor G.C. Kemp - Llancarfan Primary School and Rhws Primary School  
Councillor Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn - Cadoxton Primary School  
Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson - Colcot Primary School.

(c) Guidance Regarding the Appointment Process -

The Chairman referred to the guidance regarding the appointment process which was detailed at Agenda Item 2 within the agenda. Appendix 1 provided a list of vacancies, Appendix 2 the policy for the appointment of Local Authority Governors and Appendix 3 the advertisement for Local Authority Governors.

The Panel was advised that a late application had also been received. It was subsequently

**RECOMMENDED - T H A T** the guidance in respect of the process be noted and the late application be accepted for consideration.

Reason for recommendation

In noting the guidance for the appointment process and to allow a late application for consideration.

(d) Exclusion of Press and Public -

RESOLVED - T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

(e) Applications for Appointment for Current Local Authority Governor Vacancies - (Exempt Information - Paragraph 12) -

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet - T H A T the following appointments be made to the schools as set out below:

| <b>School</b>                  | <b>No. of Vacancies</b> | <b>Appointment</b>   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Albert Primary                 | 2                       | P. Andrews and one vacancy remaining   |
| Cadoxton Primary               | 2                       | M. John and Councillor Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn                                       |
| Barry Comprehensive            | 1                       | Councillor Dr. I. Johnson - appointment extended to end of 2017-18 academic year |
| Bryn Hafren Comprehensive      | 1                       | Position to be left vacant as school closes end of 2017-18 academic year         |
| Cogan Nursery                  | 1                       | V. Simpson   |
| Cogan Primary                  | 1                       | D. Pritchard   |
| Colcot Primary                 | 1                       | Councillor Mrs. M. Wilkinson   |
| Cowbridge Comprehensive        | 1                       | Councillor G.A. Cox  |
| Evenlode Primary               | 2                       | Councillors B. Gray and Mrs. K. McCaffer   |
| Gwenfo Church in Wales Primary | 1                       | Dr. D. Newman  |
| Holton Primary                 | 1                       | Father B. Andrews  |
| Llancarfan Primary             | 1                       | Councillor G.C. Kemp   |
| Llangan Primary                | 2                       | I. Thomas appointed.   |

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                    |   | The Panel requested that the officer speak to M.G and/or S.O'S (respectively) to ascertain if either would be interested to take up the remaining vacancy at the school ** |
| Llantwit Major                     | 1 | R. Satherley-Thomas  |
| Peterston-Super-Ely Primary        | 3 | R. Bailey, L. Cross, M. Gabriel  |
| Rhws Primary                       | 1 | Councillor G.C. Kemp   |
| St. Athan Primary                  | 1 | R. Prime   |
| St. Davids Church in Wales Primary | 1 | J. Clarke  |
| St. Cyres Comprehensive            | 1 | Councillor B. Gray   |
| St. Helens Catholic Primary        | 2 | Councillor B. Brooks and V. Simpson  |
| St. Illtyd Primary                 | 2 | L. Warren and one vacancy remaining  |
| Victoria Primary                   | 1 | Councillor M. Wilson   |
| Ysgol Gwaun y Nant                 | 2 | D. Newman and D. Weston  |
| Ysgol Sant Baruc                   | 1 | There being no applicants, the vacancy to remain   |
| Ysgol Sant Curig                   | 1 | There being no applicants, the vacancy to remain   |
| Ysgol Y Deri                       | 2 | K. Pile and R. Whittle   |

### Reasons for decisions

To allow Cabinet to consider and agree appointments to the above schools Governing Bodies and for officers to contact the applicants outlined above (\*\*) and in order to advise Cabinet accordingly.

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RESOLVED – T H A T the following appointments be made to the schools as set out below:

| <b>School</b>    | <b>No. of Vacancies</b> | <b>Appointment</b>                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Albert Primary   | 2                       | P. Andrews and one vacancy remaining       |
| Cadoxton Primary | 2                       | M. John and Councillor Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn |

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Barry Comprehensive                | 1 | Councillor Dr. I. Johnson - appointment extended to end of 2017-18 academic year |
| Bryn Hafren Comprehensive          | 1 | Position to be left vacant as school closes end of 2017-18 academic year         |
| Cogan Nursery                      | 1 | V. Simpson   |
| Cogan Primary                      | 1 | D. Pritchard   |
| Colcot Primary                     | 1 | Councillor Mrs. M. Wilkinson   |
| Cowbridge Comprehensive            | 1 | Councillor G.A. Cox  |
| Evenlode Primary                   | 2 | Councillors B. Gray and Mrs. K. McCaffer   |
| Gwenfo Church in Wales Primary     | 1 | Dr. D. Newman  |
| Holton Primary                     | 1 | Father B. Andrews  |
| Llancarfan Primary                 | 1 | Councillor G.C. Kemp   |
| Llangan Primary                    | 2 | I. Thomas and one vacancy remaining  |
| Llantwit Major                     | 1 | R. Satherley-Thomas  |
| Peterston-Super-Ely Primary        | 3 | R. Bailey, L. Cross, M. Gabriel  |
| Rhws Primary                       | 1 | Councillor G.C. Kemp   |
| St. Athan Primary                  | 1 | R. Prime   |
| St. Davids Church in Wales Primary | 1 | J. Clarke  |
| St. Cyres Comprehensive            | 1 | Councillor B. Gray   |
| St. Helens Catholic Primary        | 2 | Councillor B. Brooks and V. Simpson  |
| St. Illtyd Primary                 | 2 | L. Warren and one vacancy remaining  |
| Victoria Primary                   | 1 | Councillor M. Wilson   |
| Ysgol Gwaun y Nant                 | 2 | D. Newman and D. Weston  |
| Ysgol Sant Baruc                   | 1 | There being no applicants, the vacancy to remain                                 |
| Ysgol Sant Curig                   | 1 | There being no applicants, the vacancy to remain                                 |
| Ysgol Y Deri                       | 2 | K. Pile and R. Whittle   |

Reason for decision

To agree appointments to the above schools' Governing Bodies.



## **C107 CO-ORDINATED SCRUTINY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE (REF) -**

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 18 September, 2017 considered the above report of the Managing Director.

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report, advising that it proposed arrangements for strengthening democratic accountability and scrutiny of the School Improvement function in the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. As Committee was aware, the Central South Consortium was responsible for school improvement on behalf of five Local Authorities, Bridgend, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and the Vale of Glamorgan. The scrutiny of the Consortium was currently undertaken on an annual basis by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority and the representatives of the Consortium invited to attend meetings when necessary on an ad hoc basis.

The accountability of the Consortium and the scrutiny structure was critically important since the statutory responsibility for the performance of schools resided in individual Local Authorities. Therefore, a joint Working Group was proposed to be established from representatives of the five Local Authorities and constituted with the Chairmen of the above respective Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Support Officers with the view to considering proposals to deepen the Consortium's relationship with the scrutiny function and to consider regional performance and share best practice and information.

It was intended that the Working Group would offer an element of co-ordinated scrutiny with a specific focus on regional working. A research paper published by Cardiff Business School in 2013, found that a co-ordinated model of collaborative scrutiny could offer:

- A clearer specification of the accountability role that joint local scrutiny could perform in scrutinising collaborations and partnerships and how Elected Members best contribute to this role
- The presentation of a clear rationale for regional service delivery and regional scrutiny to Elected Members;
- Further clarity on the governance and service delivery configurations of Welsh public services;
- Sufficient resource and capacity to deliver collaborative scrutiny;
- Guidance to partnerships, Consortia and other collaborations.

It was proposed to establish a Working Group consisting the Chairmen of the Education Scrutiny Committees in each of the Local Authorities (or a nominated representative of the Scrutiny Committee) supported by a nominated Scrutiny Officer in each case.

The Working Group's terms of reference would be to consider standing items such as:

- (i) The Consortium's progress against its three-year Business Plan on a regional basis;
- (ii) Regional performance trends;
- (iii) The sharing of best scrutiny practice across the region;
- (iv) The Group to also report annually to the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority and / or feedback to the next meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority;
- (v) To share a note of its meetings with the Joint Committee and to receive a response to these from the Joint Committee.

The Central South Consortium model had been based on a similar model to the Regional Education Consortium serving the west of Wales and Powys model, which had been held as an example of good practice by the Wales Audit Office. The Forward Work Programme had been developed by the Working Group, and a copy of that document was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The previous Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee advised that he had also been involved in a number of meetings of the Working Group and that all five Counties' Scrutiny Chairs had supported its establishment, together with the Central South Consortium.

The current Chairman advised that she had attended her first meeting of the Group in July 2017.

Following consideration of the report, it was subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the proposed arrangements attached at Appendix A to the report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

Reason for recommendation

So that the proposed arrangements as detailed in the report and attached at Appendix A to the report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

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Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture)

RESOLVED – T H A T the proposed arrangements as detailed in the report and Appendix A attached to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

To strengthen the relationship between the Scrutiny function and the Central South Consortium on a regional level by establishing a working group to consider regional performance and the sharing of best practice and information.

**C108 KEY STAGE 3 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU) AND EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS) (REF) -**

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 18 September, 2017 considered the above report.

Cabinet had, on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, resolved “**That the proposals as set out in the report be approved in principle as the basis for referral to Scrutiny Committee (Learning & Culture) for consideration and consultation with service users, their families, staff and trade unions prior to reaching a final determination**”.

The report outlined that the Local Authority provided the EOTAS provision to enable students to access an alternative to mainstream school. This was required for pupils who were medically unfit to attend school and those requiring an alternative to mainstream schooling because of their additional learning needs.

The report highlighted that in July 2016 108 young people had been recorded as receiving EOTAS in the Vale of Glamorgan. At that time, this was the fifth highest in Wales. EOTAS provision could be organised by the school, via a range of alternative providers or by the Local Authority through placements at the PRU known as Ysgol Y Daith. The PRU offered learners with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties an alternative to mainstream schools. Currently the provision was split according to Key Stages. Key Stage 3 provision for 12-14 year olds was located at Amelia Trust Farm and Key Stage 4 for 14-16 year olds at the Old Magistrates Court in Cowbridge. Transport to and from each venue was provided.

A recent performance review of the PRU conducted by the Central South Consortium (CSC) raised some important issues for the Council to consider. These related to the effectiveness and appropriateness of the curriculum delivered at Key Stage 3 as well as the CSC identifying issues relating to low attendance, limited breadth of curriculum and poor outcomes. Concerns had also been expressed over the suitability of the environment and associated safeguarding and health and safety concerns. The current categorisation of the school was Improvement Capacity C and Support Category Amber. The PRU, like a number of educational establishments, was required to maintain standards in accordance with legislation pertaining to education, and as such, was subject to inspection by Estyn.

Currently the Key Stage 4 PRU operated on a part time basis. Learners spent part of their learning timetable at the PRU studying GCSEs and the remaining time with the training providers. It was proposed that a similar model would be delivered at Key Stage 3. This would involve students receiving 25 hours of tuition per week, part of which would be delivered at the PRU and the remainder on placements with various other internal and external providers. The changes proposed in the report focused on the location and operating model of the Key Stage 3 provision. It was anticipated that at some stage in the future, the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 provision would be delivered from a single location. During the interim period, continual efforts would be made to identify and exploit the synergies and opportunities that arose between the Key Stages.

In addition to some of the performance issues identified at the current Key Stage 3 PRU provision, the physical environment was also considered to be a limiting factor for the service. The Council's Health and Safety Team assessed the provision in October 2015 and raised significant concerns. Subsequently, the trade unions had made representations to management about staff safety on the site. Therefore, to ensure and safeguard the safety of students and staff, it was proposed that the services currently provided from Amelia Trust Farm should be relocated to Llantwit Major Youth Centre. This would provide a more manageable site from which services would be delivered from January 2018. The current lease arrangement with Amelia Trust Farm was due to expire at the end of July 2017. The Council was required to give three months' notice to terminate the lease arrangement

Work had also been undertaken previously relating to the future use of Llantwit Major Youth Centre. The conclusion of this work in 2015 was that Cabinet declared this building surplus to requirements. It was proposed that the relocation of the PRU to this site would be on an interim basis until the new co-educational school in Barry

was completed. Upon completion, the Youth Centre site in Llantwit Major would be surplus and options for the future operation of the premises could be reconsidered.

To accommodate the PRU at the Llantwit Major site, a number of minor modifications would be required to the building to create the appropriate classroom environment and ensure the security of the site.

It was proposed that the relocation of the service would take effect from January 2018. In order to deliver the revised operating model, a procurement exercise would be required to produce a framework of potential suppliers that would be accessed to provide appropriate learning packages for students. This timescale had been designed to enable an efficient and effective procurement process to be delivered, in addition to undertaking the important and necessary consultation activities that were described later in the report.

Potential framework suppliers would include youth support services and training providers. The learning packages would consist of a mixture of national curriculum learning such as literacy and numeracy, personal and social education and vocational opportunities. Providers would offer full time places for an academic year. These places could then be utilised to satisfy the needs of the student on either a full or part time basis as is the case with the current Key Stage 4 arrangements.

As part of the procurement process and ongoing contract management arrangements, providers would be regularly monitored with quality assurance processes being put into place. Monitoring outcomes on a contractual basis gave the Local Authority the assurance that students would achieve. If a provider did not maintain the required quality of provision, the Council would have the option to cease the provision and develop another option with an alternative provider.

In considering the report, Members raised a number of questions as outlined below:

| <b>Question</b>   | <b>Response</b>  |
|---|--|
| In referring to incidents of absconding and violence on the site, the report referred to consideration for the erection of a fence not being a viable option. | Fences could be erected at the Llantwit Major site more easily than at the Amelia Trust Farm site. The AMF was also a sizeable site to consider. The PRU standards were reported as Amber and both the CSC and Challenge Advisors had advised on health and safety issues. |

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|---|--|
|   | <p>Should the decision be to leave the service at Amelia Trust Farm, this could potentially be putting the young people at risk</p> <p>The Llantwit site was a temporary proposal as eventually the PRU would be based at Barry Comprehensive School.</p>  |
| <p>The timing of the consultation was quite short and a Member queried whether it would be meaningful and in particular whether the Council was going down a route that it shouldn't be?</p> <p>The whole idea of the PRU was that it was an alternative to mainstream school a Member's concern related to the fact that if it went to Llantwit it would be next to a nursery.</p> | <p>The Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing advised that the Council had to start with consultation in the first instance and staff had also been involved.</p> <p>It was important to note that should the decision be to leave the service at the PRU at Amelia Trust Farm, this could potentially be putting the children at risk.</p> <p>The Officer was keen to advise that it was not a cutting exercise it was about doing the right thing. The budget would provide additional funds to provide further improvements. As the Lead Officer he was concerned about the safety aspect and he was not prepared to carry the responsibility if a child was hurt.</p> |
| <p>As the report referred to some of the young people being unmanageable, a Member found it hard to believe that they could actually be brought back into the classroom.</p>  | <p>The Lead Officer in response advised that they were currently utilising the resources of an ACT trainer provider and a pilot project had been undertaken with the more challenging of students, with the success that a number of them had actually attended sessions which they had not done before. Evidence had also shown that excellent results had been made to date in pupil behaviour. Other providers had also been used to motivate</p>   |

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|---|---|
|   | <p>and encourage and provide students with a fighting chance. There had also been a marked improvement in attendance as well as some welfare wellbeing issues having been addressed.</p> <p>The Head of Service also advised that at Key Stage 3, it was not experimental as the initiatives had actually worked at Key Stage 4 with bespoke packages also being identified for individuals. The opportunities that they had afforded at Amelia Trust Farm would also be able to be used as it would be a provider to the Council. This was also an area that needed to be utilised and investigated more in a cost effective way.</p> <p>The Lead Officer further stated that EOTAS was rising and schools were using the service as an option to deal with behaviour, however in the future the department would be asking if they have done everything possible before a young person was referred to the PRU.</p> |
| <p>The Chairman queried what the time gap was for the provision of service at Llantwit Major and the establishment of the Centre of Excellence.</p> | <p>The Head of Service for Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that the earliest date would be 2021/22.</p>   |

Following full consideration of the report, it was subsequently

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (1) T H A T Cabinet be requested to continue with the aim of bringing the PRU back to Barry and developing a centre for behavioural excellence.
- (2) T H A T the Council maintains the aim of reintegrating pupils into mainstream school wherever possible and that this is considered an urgent factor.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) For Cabinet to be apprised of the views of the Committee and for Cabinet consideration.

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Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture)

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on Key Stage 3 Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) be noted and considered as part of a future detailed report to Cabinet.

Reason for decision

To consider the comments of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) as part of the strategic approach to the provision of education services for young people within the resources available.

**C109 "STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE: PROPOSALS FOR A WELSH LANGUAGE BILL" WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - PROPOSED COUNCIL RESPONSE (REF) -**

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 16 October, 2017 considered the above report of the Director of Learning and Skills.

The report drew the Committee's attention to the White Paper on proposals for a Welsh Language Bill (attached at Appendix A) and sought endorsement for the proposed Council response at Appendix B.

The Head of Performance and Development in presenting the report advised that the Welsh Government was proposing to amend the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 as a result of a two-fold concern:

- that there was too much emphasis on regulation and not enough on promotion;
- that the way the Welsh Language Standards were currently made and enforced was too bureaucratic and time-consuming.



The aim of the White Paper, currently out for consultation, was to strike the right balance and responses were required by 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.

In referring to the proposals, the Head of Service also advised that it covered the following broad areas:

- What should be the Welsh Government's role in promoting the Welsh language and what national governance arrangements should be adopted, in relation to promotion and regulation?
- What changes should be made to how the Welsh Language Standards were made and enforced?

The White Paper made ten broad proposals which covered the above two areas and Appendix B detailed the list of those proposals with a suggested Council response for each one. The Head of Service further stated that much of what was proposed was indeed welcomed, in particular the reduction in bureaucracy as regards the Standards. However, there did remain concerns about how the different elements of promotion and regulation of the Welsh language were to be treated, which national agency should be responsible for each and the confusion that might still arise if these powers continued to be split between Welsh Government and the proposed new Welsh Language Commission.

In considering the report, it was the consensus of the meeting that the tone of the response was appropriate but Members considered that it would be a challenge to obtain Welsh Government's ambition to achieve one million Welsh speakers by 2050. It was recognised that the document was trying to encourage and improve the situation, but noted that for the Council, the Education Department would no doubt bear the brunt of the challenge. In order to achieve this, Members felt that it would be important for Welsh Government to ensure that there were enough Welsh medium teachers in positions to help achieve the goals.

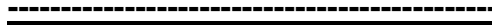
The Lead Officer for Improvement and Senior Challenge Advisor informed Committee that currently there were three teachers from the English medium sector who were undertaking intensive training in the Welsh language.

The Chair concurred with Members' sentiments in relation to training teachers and said that encouraging and promoting the use of Welsh was also important. In that regard the Council's efforts in working with organisations such as Menter Bro Morgannwg on events like the annual Gwyl Fach y Fro, now attracting thousands of people, was significant. It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the response attached at Appendix B be endorsed and together with the report be referred to Cabinet for approval with a request that Welsh Government be asked, in addition, to address the issues of teaching capacity and promotion as outlined above to support the development of the Welsh language.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the views of the Council are made clear to Welsh Government and that capacity to support the development of the Welsh language is considered and addressed.



Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture)

RESOLVED – T H A T the response attached at Appendix B to the report be approved and sent to Welsh Government with the additional request to address the issues of teaching capacity and promotion as outlined in the report to support the development of the Welsh language.

Reason for decision

To ensure that the views of the Council were made clear to Welsh Government and that capacity to support the development of the Welsh language was considered and addressed.

**C110 CORPORATE PRINTING STRATEGY (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

Approval was sought to let a tender for the supply of a corporate managed print service.

Cabinet endorsed the Corporate Printing Strategy in 2011 and a tender was subsequently let for the supply of multi-functional devices which had been in operation for the last six years. The existing contract was due to expire at the end of March 2018 and a new contract needed to be let to enable the Council to continue to generate savings and print documents in a cost effective and efficient manner.

A project board would be established following the Corporate Project Management Methodology and the tender documentation would be drafted after a corporate print needs audit had been carried out. The project sponsor was the Head of Finance, the project Manager was the Operational Manager (ICT) and the project board consisted of representatives from finance, legal, procurement and service users.

The report proposed to publish the tender as soon as was practicable and award the contract in time to allow for implementation at least a month before the expiry of the existing contract on 31 March, 2018 to allow for a period of staff training and snagging before the current printer estate was removed.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance to approve the issue of tenders for the supply of a corporate managed print service.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council to award a contract to the winning bidder of the tendering process for corporate managed print service.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services to execute the corporate managed print service contract.

Reasons for decisions

- (1-3) To have an appropriate contract in place for the supply of a corporate managed print service to maintain the ability to print in a cost effective and efficient manner.

**C111 LIDW2 GRANT / WIDE AREA NETWORK UPGRADE 2017 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

Approval was sought to upgrade the Wide Area Network and improve ICT performance across the Council's network.

The Council's corporate Wide Area Network (WAN) connected all council offices and all schools together to allow them to securely access ICT services such as email, internet and Oracle. It also extended into other organisations where Council staff operated from such as the NHS, Central Government organisations and other Local Authorities.

The existing WAN was commissioned in 2010 and provided as a managed service by a company called Networks by Wireless. This network consisted of primarily radio based technology.

In 2014, Networks by Wireless went into administration. This resulted in the Council making a substantial capital investment to purchase the entire network hardware infrastructure from the administrator, the site share agreements from Arqiva and the radio broadcast licences from Ofcom. The annual revenue cost to maintain the network hardware infrastructure following its purchase in 2014 reduced as the Vale of Glamorgan ICT Service was now essentially managing its own WAN services.

The hardware infrastructure that was purchased from the Administrator in 2014 was now near end of life and had started to cause network issues resulting in service performance degradation, intermittent network problems and some longer-term outages.

The Welsh Government had set new guidelines with regard to ICT connectivity across all schools. Under the guidance all Secondary schools in Wales had to have at least 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) internet connectivity and all Primary schools in Wales had to have at least 100 Megabit per second (Mbps) internet connectivity by 2020. To assist Local Authorities to achieve these demands, grant funding had been made available by the Welsh Government as part of a scheme called LiDW2. The Welsh Government intended to release this grant funding in November 2017.

If the Vale of Glamorgan Council accepted the grant funding, schools would be moved off the corporate WAN and onto the Welsh Governments existing secure Public Sector Broadband Aggregation (PSBA) network. The Vale of Glamorgan Council was the only Local Authority in Wales which did not utilise the PSBA for its corporate WAN services. This was due to historic issues with service tariff inconsistencies which had since been resolved.

Currently internet traffic from all schools was routed over the WAN back to the Civic Office as their route out to the internet was via a single internet connection located at the Civic Office. One of the design proposals submitted by PSBA as part of the LiDW2 project suggested that all schools would have their own dedicated internet

connection. This would provide performance improvements and resilience to the schools whilst eliminating the need to route their internet traffic across the corporate WAN back to the Civic Office. This change would also improve performance of the corporate WAN for Council staff.

PSBA had proposed that, if the schools were going to be moved off the current corporate WAN infrastructure and onto the PSBA network as part of the LiDW2 project, it would be an opportunity to move the Council's WAN onto the PSBA network infrastructure too as all other Welsh LA's had done previously. This would avoid the costs and time for the Council of going out to tender for a new separate corporate WAN, avoid the costs of re-joining orphaned Council buildings back onto a separate corporate network, avoid the revenue costs of maintaining end of life network hardware and avoid the costs of signing up to a separate managed corporate WAN services.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Learning and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet member for Learning and Culture to accept the LiDW2 Grant from the Welsh Government to upgrade ICT connectivity for all schools.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to join the Public Sector Broadband Aggregation (PSBA) network on behalf of the Council.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council to enter into an agreement with Welsh Government and BT for the supply of the Wide Area Network.
- (4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services to execute the necessary arrangements for the Council to join the PSBA.
- (5) T H A T Cabinet approve the increase in the Capital Programme funded by £348,000 from Welsh Government, £86,500 from the Computer Renewal

Fund and the pulling forward of £20,000 from the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

- (6) T H A T the use of Article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of resolution 1 above.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To secure Welsh Government grant to support the upgrade of the schools Internet capacity.
- (2-5) To enable the Council to upgrade its ICT infrastructure.
- (6) To enable the Council to access the funding within the timescale available.

**C112 INCOME GENERATION & COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY 2017-2020 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

Approval was sought for the Council's Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy 2017-2020.

The Council had a range of experience in generating income and using commercial opportunities in order to supplement other forms of income, such as that received from the Welsh Government, Council Tax collection and other grants. However, it was recognised that the situation now faced by the Council required a more fundamental shift in the way in which these activities were identified, coordinated, implemented and monitored. The recently received draft financial settlement from Welsh Government confirmed a further reduction in the funding that would be made available to the Council for the next two financial years. This would require the organisation to identify alternative means of supporting the delivery of priority services through the transformational change programme, Reshaping Services.

The Wales Audit Office report on Savings Planning (March 2017) identified a proposal for improvement for the Authority to "strengthen financial planning arrangements by developing a strategic approach to income generation". Income generation and commercial opportunities were further explored during the Reshaping Services Baseline Assessment Update project that was undertaken in late 2016 in order to identify future projects to progress the Reshaping Services Programme.

Following completion of the Baseline Assessment Update project, this area of work had been included in the Reshaping Services programme and income targets of £50k, £550k and £500K for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively had been approved in the Council's budget and Medium term Financial Plan.

As a way of initiating the delivery of this work, the Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy had been prepared in order to ensure a clear vision and consistency in the way future activity was managed. The Strategy could be found in Appendix A attached to the report.

The aim of the strategy was to "Support the delivery of Strong Communities with a Bright Future through the development and implementation of a range of income generation and commercial opportunities, which will complement other sources of funding".

The strategy set out four strategic objectives. Each objective was supported by a series of "policy principles" which set out how the Council would go about achieving each objective and would guide the actions taken to deliver the overall aim of the strategy. The four strategic objectives were:

- To support consistency across the Council in its approach to income generation and commercial opportunities, including setting, collecting and reviewing fees and charges.
- To aim towards achieving full cost recovery where it was appropriate to do so and to develop a standard approach to the application of concessions.
- To influence demand and use of Council services whilst promoting equity and fairness.
- To support the delivery of the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Reshaping Services Programme as well as other corporate planning documents.

The activity pursued in delivering Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy would be coordinated by an Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Board as part of the Reshaping Services Programme portfolio and reported to a Board chaired by the Managing Director. The programme would report to the Reshaping Services Programme Board and to the Council's Cabinet. The strategy set out the arrangements for the development of proportionate business cases to ensure decisions were well evidenced, consistent and received the appropriate oversight and scrutiny.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy 2017-2020 attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To consider the way in which income generation and commercial opportunities services would contribute to the delivery of the Council's vision of "strong communities with a bright future".
- (2) To enable the Council to put in place an Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy to support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

**C113 REGISTER OFFICE CEREMONIES AND FEES (RLS) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

Cabinet was presented with proposals to extend the range of services offered by the Council's Registration Service and approval was sought for a review of associated fees and charges.

The Registration Service had two distinct income sources. Firstly, there were a number of services where a statutory fee applied, the fee itself being determined by the Registrar General. Statutory fees covered aspects such as marriages and civil partnerships, which took place in a 'statutory' Register Office venue, as well as notices relating to such ceremonies and the issuing of certain certificates. The second category of income related to services where there was no statutory fee and fees were determined by the Local Authority. An example of this would be fees set for the attendance of Registration Service staff at external commercial venues (known as "Approved Premises").

As part of the Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Programme, and in light of the above, a review of fees and charges within the Registration Service had been undertaken, alongside a benchmarking exercise to analyse services provided by Register Offices in neighbouring Local Authorities. This had enabled the Council



to identify opportunities to expand the current service offering and the report outlined the proposals in more detail.

The suggested charges, together with a full implementation timetable, including transitional arrangements for existing bookings, were set out in Appendix A attached to the report.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Operational Manager (Democratic Services), in the capacity as Proper Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Registration Service, to decommission existing Register Office rooms (which will become Approved Premises), as set out in the report.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Operational Manager (Democratic Services), in the capacity as Proper Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Registration Service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regulatory and Legal Services of the Council and Managing Director, to explore opportunities of making additional Council Venues Approved Premises and to implement accordingly if considered feasible.
- (3) T H A T the revised fees and charges in respect of registration and ceremony fees, a priority certificate service and associated postage charges as set out in Appendix A attached to the report, be approved.
- (4) T H A T a further report be presented to Cabinet following 12 months of the implementation of the new arrangements.

Reasons for decisions

- (1-2) To enable rooms to be decommissioned and designated as Approved Premises as and when required.
- (3) To extend and enhance the service options available to Registration Service customers and to ensure any changes to fees and charges are aligned with

the principles of the Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Strategy.

- (4) To allow Cabinet to consider fully the impacts of the new arrangements and the need for any further revisions to those arrangements.

**C114 COWBRIDGE LIVESTOCK MARKET REGENERATION PROJECT (RLS)  
(SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) -**

Cabinet was presented with a report that set out a new vision for regenerating the Livestock Market area in Cowbridge town centre, which envisaged the Livestock Market relocating to the edge of Cowbridge; the marketing and disposal of the main site for redevelopment; the provision of improved public car parking; an opportunity for the Vale Market Community Enterprise (VMCE) to deliver their proposed Exchange building; and an opportunity for Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO to facilitate further restoration of the historic Town Wall.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council owned the freehold interest of approximately 2.92 acres of land located at the vicinity of Cowbridge Livestock Market identified as Areas X (measuring approximately 2.15 acres) and Y (measuring approximately 0.77 acres) in Appendix A attached to the report. The land was located within the town centre and Cowbridge Conservation Area and was bisected by The Butts, a public highway leading to Southgate, with Area Y lying adjacent the historic Town Wall.

The Council had been supportive in principle since 2013 of a mixed use plan put forward in 2012 by a community group called the Vale Market Action Group (VMAG) to achieve the regeneration of land at Cowbridge Livestock Market. The VMAG comprised representatives of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Cowbridge Town Council, Glamorgan Marts (the Market Operator), the Vale Marketing Group, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Capital Region Tourism, local businesses and representatives of Vale farming interests.

The VMAG and its volunteers from the local community had over the past five years worked in liaison with the Council to facilitate a master plan in the spirit of the VMAG's vision but this had not been achieved. Following the local elections in May 2017 a new Project Board had been established comprising the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director, Head of Regeneration and Planning and the Head of Finance. The new Board had concluded that a fresh approach was required by the Council to achieve the delivery of the comprehensive regeneration of Areas X and Y, subject to statutory consents, and was detailed in the report.

The Cowbridge Livestock Market Regeneration Project would be overseen by the new Project Board. The intention was to appoint consultant property surveyors to assist with the marketing and disposal of the main site (Area X) and assist with lease negotiations associated with the proposed lease of land for the Exchange. Additional consultants and consultancy support may also be required to achieve project delivery.

At the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning referred to references made in the report to “Cowbridge Charter Trust”. He advised Cabinet that the Council had been advised by the Treasurer of the Trust that its correct name was “Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO”, CIO being an abbreviation of Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Hence, he requested:

- a) the Minutes of today’s meeting make clear that any reference to the Cowbridge Charter Trust in the report should read “Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO”; and
- b) Recommendation and Reason 5 should be amended to read “...Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO...”

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning to facilitate, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, the new vision set out in this report, for the comprehensive mixed use regeneration of land at Cowbridge Livestock Market outlined in areas X and Y of Appendix A attached to the report.
- (2) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to market and dispose Area X outlined in Appendix A attached to the report for redevelopment, subject to statutory consents, for a new land use or uses and

for part of the site to include some public car parking, in liaison with property and planning advisors.

- (3) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to facilitate the delivery of public car parking within the area indicatively shown coloured yellow in Appendix B attached to the report, and for the avoidance of doubt including the area coloured yellow and hatched green, subject to funding raised from the disposal of land at Area X outlined in Appendix A and B attached to the report and statutory consents.
- (4) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to dispose of the land indicatively shown coloured green within part of Area Y, outlined in Appendix B attached to the report, by way of a lease to the Vale Market Community Enterprise (VMCE) for a Market Hall facility (The Exchange), subject to the VMCE submitting a viable Business Case, securing funding and statutory consents.
- (5) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to agree a temporary Licence, and the boundary of the Licence area, with the Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO to implement works to demolish the non - operational cattle pens indicatively shown coloured yellow and hatched green within Area Y detailed in Appendix B attached to the report, to facilitate restoration works at the Town Wall subject to agreeing a Methodology, funding and statutory consents.
- (6) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning (in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance) to appoint consultant property surveyors to assist with the marketing of Area X (Appendix A attached to the report) and the lease proposed for the VMCE's Exchange shown coloured green within part of Area Y(Appendix B attached to the report) along with any other consultancy support required and to appoint other consultants as may be necessary to achieve project delivery.

- (7) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to grant a Licence and agree the boundary of the Licence area to enable Glamorgan Marts to continue to operate the Livestock Market until the end of March 2018 and for the term to be extended at the discretion of the said officers and members.
- (8) T H A T authority is granted to the Head of Legal Services to prepare, execute and complete all legal documentation required to facilitate the project.
- (9) T H A T a project budget is made available during 2017/18 of £15,000, 2018/19 of £35,000 and 2019/20 of £10,000, to be funded in the short term from the Miscellaneous Properties budget which will be reimbursed up to a maximum of 4% of any future capital receipt once received and the capital programme will then be amended accordingly.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To approve a new vision set out in the report to be pursued for the regeneration of Areas X and Y outlined in Appendix A and B attached to the report.
- (2) To obtain authority to market and dispose for redevelopment Area X outlined in Appendix A and B attached to the report.
- (3) To obtain authority to facilitate a public car park within part of Area Y outline in Appendix A and B attached to the report.
- (4) To obtain authority to lease land to the VMCE for a Market Hall facility (The Exchange) within part of Area Y outline in Appendix B attached to the report.
- (5) To obtain authority for a temporary Licence and to agree the Licence area with the Cowbridge Charter Trust CIO to facilitate the demolition of the non-operational cattle pens and Town Wall restoration works within part of Area Y outline in Appendix B attached to the report.
- (6) To obtain authority to appoint consultant property surveyors and other consultants as may be required to achieve project delivery.

- (7) To obtain authority to grant a temporary Licence for Glamorgan Marts and to extend the Licence period and agree the Licence area.
- (8) To obtain authority for the Head of Legal Services to prepare, execute and complete all legal documentation required for project delivery.
- (9) To allocate a project budget.

**C115 VALE TIMEBANKING PILOT PROJECT (COMMUNITY INVESTMENT - HOUSING) (HBS) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) -**

An overview of Timebanking, and how such a scheme could benefit residents within the Vale of Glamorgan, was provided and approval sought to establish a pilot Timebanking project.

The Community Investment Team alongside the wider Housing Management Service had been looking at methods to increase the Council's tenant's involvement in volunteering. There was a strong commitment to building safe and cohesive communities and a belief that there were many people living within the Council's properties who would be able to assist in achieving this.

Traditionally, there had always been excellent volunteering opportunities within the Vale and volunteering services in this area were well administered by the Glamorgan Voluntary Service (GVS). However it appeared that very low levels of Vale housing tenants had engaged with these services. Timebanks were successful in attracting people who would not normally become involved in traditional volunteering.

For every hour participants 'deposit' in a Timebank through volunteering, they were then able to 'withdraw' equivalent support themselves. There were several models for Timebanking. The report stated that the option that would appear to best meet the needs of the Council's tenants was based on reward schemes. Rather than volunteers 'withdrawing' an hour of another volunteer's time, they were able to claim a time credit voucher. Credits could then be redeemed in various places throughout the U.K. including cinemas, leisure centres and sporting events.

Timebanking brought many benefits including making use of assets and resources within a community or group; building social networks for people; encouraging people to work together; and gaining new skills.

Housing Services had worked in partnership with other areas of the local authority as well as external organisations, such as Reach and Newydd Housing Association, to develop a steering group to support the pilot project. The group had been created as a consequence of a combined desire to support people into volunteering. The report purposed that Housing Services would take the lead on the project costing £14,918 for the initial pilot year. The steering group would then work together to develop a sustainable funding model for the scheme if it was successful. Initial discussions had focused on partners making a contribution towards the annual fee relevant to turnover, similar to models for membership subscriptions.

In order to pilot Timebanking within the Vale, an organisation called Spice would be used to manage the introduction of the scheme. Spice was founded in South Wales as a social enterprise which developed a unique time-based currency referred to as credits. They worked with a range of organisations including housing and community services. Spice found that the credit model had increased community cohesion, raised levels of volunteering and improved health. Spice charged a fee of £14,918.00 which included purchasing £5,000 credits, staff expertise, promotional activities and monitoring services.

The project aimed to achieve the following within year 1 –

- 5% of tenants or members of their households to be actively engaged in volunteering
- The Community Investment Team would establish 3 innovative Timebanking projects to benefit the local community, including within rural areas
- 70% of those who engage in Timebanking would report gaining new skills
- 60% of those who engage in Timebanking would report increased self-esteem
- 70 young people would complete a volunteering activity via Timebanking
- Tenants and residents reporting feeling valued for their contributions to the community
- Greater ability to deliver effective services with the resources available

Within year 1 a clear framework would be established detailing Timebanking activities and organisations that were permitted to issue credits, ensuring transparent processes were in place. Should there be low levels of engagement with the project it would cease after the first year. The Council was not required to enter into any on-going contracts with Spice therefore after the initial cost should the project end there would be no further costs.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the introduction of a pilot Timebanking project within the Vale of Glamorgan be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee (Homes and Safe Communities) receives six monthly monitoring reports in relation to the operational delivery of the Vale Timebanking project.
- (3) T H A T a full evaluation report be produced for Cabinet evidencing the difference the scheme has made after 12 months.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To provide authority to introduce a pilot Timebanking scheme.
- (2) To allow the outcomes of the pilot scheme to be assessed along with other performance management data for Housing Management.
- (3) To assess whether Timebanking had the desired impact and offered value for money in order to inform a decision on introducing such a scheme on a permanent basis.