

CABINET

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 2nd February, 2023.

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

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

Present: Councillor L. Burnett (Chair); Councillors R.M. Birch, B.E. Brooks, G. John, E. Williams, and M.R. Wilson.

Also Present: Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson.

C203 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader welcomed all parties to the Cabinet meeting and reminded everyone present that the meeting was being Live Streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.

She asked if all participants please ‘mute’ themselves when not speaking in order to avoid any background noise or feedback when other participants were speaking, and if a participant wished to speak if they could put their hand up (to be seen on screen) or use the ‘raise hand’ function.

Members were asked to ensure that all debate was raised verbally and not via the ‘chat’ function for the sake of the recording. The ‘chat’ function could be used to highlight any technical issues and/or to get the attention of the Chair or Democratic Services Officer.

C204 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor M.R. Wilkinson.

C205 DECLARATION OF INTEREST –

Councillor G. John	The interest related to Agenda Item 14 – Reshaping Services: Single Use Sports Facilities. Councillor John advised that he had a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter as a lifelong member of Llantwit Major Football Club but had dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote where issues were raised in respect of the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Reshaping Services and Corporate Plan at both Vale of Glamorgan and Llantwit Major Town Council meetings (paragraphs (d), (e) and (f)).
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C206 WHISTLEBLOWING: STAFF SURVEY RESULTS AND ANNUAL REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee of 12th December, 2022 was presented.

The Leader said there had been an interesting discussion at the meeting, including the launch of the Speak Out Hub, the numbers of reports that were more concerned with the grievance procedure rather than whistleblowing and the use of statistics and percentages.

Recommendation (4) asked that the Chief Executive be requested to ensure that whistleblowing was placed on all Directorate agenda meetings, Head of Service meetings and Team meetings. The Leader said that quarterly whistleblowing meetings were being held across the Council where all issues raised were captured so the Council could learn and improve.

The Leader also added that there was a duty on all Members to report any issues concerning safeguarding.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee be noted.
- (2) T H A T the proposed areas for revision of the existing Policy as detailed in paragraph 2.22 of the report be endorsed as part of the annual review of the Policy.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

C207 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of 18th January, 2023 was presented.

The Leader said that the term of the current Administration was due to end in 2027 and that the Challenge Plan set out the activities that would contribute to the Council's aim of being net zero by 2030, only three years later. Climate change was difficult to factor into budget setting but was so important as a consideration. There was discussion about carbon emissions in relation to procurement and how the Council needed to be mindful of the services that are procured and their carbon impact.

Councillor Wilson agreed that addressing climate change was a major challenge and that some decisions were currently the subject of consultation with the public and

Scrutiny Committees, e.g. green waste recycling. He encouraged all residents to think about their behaviour going forward, e.g., sustainable use of public transport instead of cars, types of products purchased, etc. He was pleased that the Council had reserves available to continue to tackle the climate change challenge. The Leader referred to Page 9 of the main report which detailed the reserves that had been set aside to support the work on climate change projects.

The Leader said that she would welcome greater detail concerning an integrated public transport system as part of Project Zero and sustainable transport and hoped that the Transport Hub in Barry Docks would be open shortly. Greater use of Photovoltaic panels for solar power on both Council owned public buildings within the Vale of Glamorgan was also being assessed and work undertaken by the Council with suppliers and procurement partners on decarbonisation and sustainability.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

C208 AUDIT WALES: VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ASSURANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT (ARA) REVIEW 2021/22 AND THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES NATIONAL STUDY REPORT ON PUBLIC SECTOR CARBON READINESS FOR NET ZERO BY 2030 (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of 18th January, 2023 was presented.

The Leader said that this was an interesting and wide-ranging report which Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee looked at in detail, including the Medium Term Financial Plan refresh, wider challenges of costing and funding decarbonization and delivery of savings targets. Officers from across the Council were working collaboratively to see how to deliver services.

Referring to Recommendation (1) of the reference, the Leader said that the aim of the Council was to meet savings targets in a more targeted way which achieved the savings requested without impacting on services and other key areas of Council business, but that was difficult to achieve.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C209 COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR FOOD, WARM SPACES AND OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of 18th January, 2023 was presented.

The Leader said that there was a cross-Directorate working group which was discussing how different facilities supported residents with warm spaces and food. There had been a misunderstanding at the meeting concerning warm spaces being made available in urban settings, when in fact they were across the Vale of Glamorgan in rural areas and growing in numbers also.

Funding had been available from Welsh Government and discussion was taking place about how to fund such facilities sustainably once that funding comes to an end. The Leader was pleased to note that such spaces were very popular and had also provided safe spaces for young people to go on the evenings.

With regards Recommendation (2) of the reference, it was agreed that any further updates or reports to Cabinet on the Council's response to the Audit Wales Report be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Committee.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C210 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION REGIONAL CABINET –

The minutes of the Cardiff Capital Region Regional Cabinet meeting held on 28th November, 2022 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

The Leader referred to the discussion that had taken place concerning graduate recruitment and retention which had support from all ten Local Authority Leaders, Cardiff Capital Region's Engagement at MIPIM 2023 to maximise sponsorship but with no economic impact on Local Authorities, the Audit Wales Investment

Framework Review and the acquisition and remediation of the former Aberthaw Power Station.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Capital Region Regional Cabinet meeting held on 28th November, 2022 be noted.

Reason for decisions

In noting the minutes.

C211 LOCAL ACCESS FORUM –

The minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting held on 29th November, 2022 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

The Leader drew attention to the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair at the meeting and Cabinet sent congratulations to Councillors Ian Perry and William Hennessy respectively with regards their future duties.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting held on 29th November, 2022 be noted.

Reason for decisions

In noting the minutes.

C212 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 4th January, 2023 as contained within the agenda, were submitted.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Committee hoped to have a tour of the Barrage and river in May. There had been presentations concerning Navigational Safety from Natural Resources Wales, as well as several filming productions having taken place at the Barrage in November and December. Discussion also took place regarding fish levels and the fish pass, water oxygen levels and that work was currently being undertaken in relation to the Penarth Headland Link project.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 4th January, 2023 be noted.

Reason for decisions

In noting the minutes.

C213 PAY POLICY 2023/2024 - (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to consider and endorse the Council's annual Pay Policy for 2023/24 prior to its submission to Council for approval.

The Leader said that the report would be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for in-depth discussion. She referred to Section 12 of Appendix A to the report concerning the differential between the top and the bottom of the organisation being quite flat.

Councillor Wilson referred to Section 8.1 of Appendix A to the report which highlighted the progress made in addressing gender pay gaps. Section 7.14 of Appendix A to the report showed almost identical gender profiles, it was good to see that kind of equality and he applauded the Council for working towards that position.

The Leader said she would like to see some benchmarking data in order to compare the position in the Vale of Glamorgan to other Local Authorities but was pleased to see a good balance across senior officer level, Heads of Service and Operational Managers.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the required changes to the Council's Pay Policy 2023/24 as set out in the report and as incorporated in the revised statement at Appendix A be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the Council's Pay Policy 2023/24 be referred for consideration by Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th February, 2023 and for final consideration and approval by Council on 6th March, 2023. Should Scrutiny Committee make no further comments then Cabinet would consider the Pay Policy as agreed and therefore referred to Full Council for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To respond to the legal requirements under the Standing Orders (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2014, the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 and related advice from the Welsh Government.

(2) To respond to the legal requirement under the Localism Act 2011 and to provide openness and accountability in relation to how the Council rewards its staff.

C214 STATUTORY CONSULTATION TO EXPAND YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 - (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a statutory consultation to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

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 Director of Learning and Skills be authorised to undertake a consultation on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025 starting on 27th February, 2023 for a 6-week period ending on the 11th April, 2023.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To seek Cabinet authority to carry out a statutory consultation in compliance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

(2) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee are consulted on the proposals.

C215 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN - (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to present the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023 for approval.

The Leader referred to Paragraph 2.4 of the report and the plan to afford new build and acquisition schemes of £236m over years 1 – 30. She said that was a good starting point but the Authority was ambitious and it was hoped more could be achieved.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/53 (draft) attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (2) T H A T the report be submitted to the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration. Should the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee make no comment then the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/53 would be considered approved and submitted to Full Council on 6th March, 2023 for approval prior to submission to Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To obtain Cabinet approval for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/53 (draft) prior to referral to Council.
- (2) To engage with Scrutiny and obtain Council approval for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2023/53 prior to submission to Welsh Government.

C216 RESHAPING SERVICES: SINGLE USE SPORTS FACILITIES - (LSW) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Cabinet of progress to date on the transfer of Single Use Sports Facilities and to seek approval to progress further transfers.

The Leader said that previous transfers had worked well, and it was constructive where clubs were managing their own grounds, often making it more cost effective for the club and the Council. She asked if as part of the negotiations with Old Penarthians Rugby Club that Penarth Football Club also be approached to ensure communication between the two clubs regarding shared use of the wider area, which Councillor John agreed would take place.

Councillor John amended the wording regarding Recommendation (6), that Cabinet receives a further report on this matter 'before' 1st September, 2023 rather than 'after'.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein and noting the amendment to Recommendation (6)

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the significant and positive progress made in relation to single use sports grounds facilities to date be noted.

(2) T H A T subject to Resolutions (3) and (4), the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing, be authorised to negotiate the transfer of the sites detailed in the report namely: Penarth Athletic Club, Old Penarthians Rugby Club, Wick Pavilion, St. Brides Pavilion, Island Marine Football Club, Llantwit Major Football and Cricket Clubs, Vale United Football Club and Barry Rugby Club with the objective of completing transfers by 1st September, 2023.

(3) T H A T authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to advertise the proposed disposals in accordance of s123 (2A) Local Government Act 1972 and Regulation 5 of the Playing Field (Community Involvement in Disposals Decisions (Wales) Regulations 2015 where relevant.

(4) T H A T any objections to the land disposals proposed are reported separately to Cabinet for consideration prior to any final decision being taken and that, should no objections be received, matters progressed as detailed in the report.

(5) T H A T subject to Resolutions (3) and (4), the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Director of Environment and Housing, be authorised to prepare execute and complete the required leases.

(6) T H A T Cabinet receives a further report on this matter before 1st September, 2023.

Reasons for decisions

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

(2) To allow further transfers to progress as promptly as possible.

(3) To meet with the requirements of the relevant legislation.

(4) To permit any objections to the advertisement process to be properly considered prior to any decisions being taken to enter into leases.

(5) To authorise the completion of the necessary documentation.

(6) To provide a further update in relation to other planned transfers.