

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20TH JULY, 2023

REFERENCE FROM GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE: 12TH JUNE, 2023

“97 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 25th May, 2023 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources.

The Director advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an overview on the performance related activities that the Council would be undertaking over a 12-month period.

The report also outlined the key findings and learning from the previous year’s Annual Self-Assessment review approach and made proposals to further enhance the process in readiness for the 2022/23 self-assessment. Appendix A to the report outlined a rolling programme of collaborative work with Members throughout the 2023/24 Annual Performance Calendar to develop their skills and knowledge and strengthen their involvement in shaping and refining the key plans, reports and processes that would support them in their key role of assessing whether the Council was achieving its Well-being Objectives, delivering value for money and improving the well-being of its citizens.

Councillor M. Hooper queried how the public engagement activity differed to that carried out last year and how did the Council use the public as a “sounding board”. Councillor Hooper also commented on workshops arranged for Elected Members, stating that some should be held in person. Finally, Councillor Hooper also referred to making special provision around the engagement with the Trade Unions. In reply, the Director stated that Trade Unions were extremely important and there was specific legislation that required the Council to engage with the Trade Unions on the Annual Self-Assessment. The Director added that the Council’s relationship with the Trade Unions was positive and constructive, and engagement with the Trade Unions would be added to the timetable shown under paragraph 2.13 of the report. In terms of workshops, the Director stated that he was very keen to get as much feedback and involvement as possible, so he was happy to look at the way that workshops were held. With regard to how could the Council improve its ability to use the public as a sounding board and to engage with them, the Director advised that there were two aspects to this. The first was how the Council reflected more comprehensively within the Self-Assessment, and should detail the conversations through the engagement, activities and consultations that had been carried out within that 12-month period. As a result, the Director was working with colleagues to look at opportunities for larger and more wider scale engagement exercises to influence and feed into the Self-Assessment process. The Director also highlighted

that as part of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan, there would be engagement around such areas like the budget setting process.

Councillor Hooper commented that it was important for the public to feel that their contributions had been heard and taken into account, even if the Council did not agree with the points raised.

Further to Councillor Hooper's comments, the Chair, G. Chapman, stated that engagement with staff, the public and other key stakeholders was scheduled to take place during August which was when a lot of people were on holiday. There was also the issue of the school summer term. The Chair therefore suggested that the length of time for the engagement activity planned for August should be extended. The Chair also concurred with Councillor Hooper's points about the public feeling that they had been heard, and for comments to be included to show how comments were taken into account.

There being no further comments or queries, the Committee

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar 2023/24 and the proposed approach to engaging with Members in-year to shape and refine the Annual Performance Calendar of activities and to support Members in their scrutiny role be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet be advised of views of Members of the Governance and Audit Committee, these being:

- For consideration to be given to extending the public engagement activity scheduled for August 2023 as many people will be on holiday and because of the school summer term.
- That the Council ensures that members of the public feel that their views have been heard and responses provided to indicate how those views have been taken into account.

Reason for decisions

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