

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 11th April, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor L. Burnett (Chair); Councillors R.M. Birch, B.E. Brooks, S.D. Perkes, S. Sivagnanam, E. Williams, and M.R. Wilson.

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

C296 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader welcomed all parties to the meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet.

Members and Officers were reminded that the meeting was being livestreamed, recorded and would be uploaded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting.

She asked if all participants to ensure that if participating in person in the Chamber that their microphone not be activated and for remote attendees to 'mute' themselves when not speaking to avoid any background noise or feedback when other participants were speaking, and if a participant wished to speak if they could activate their respective request to speak function or use the 'raise hand' function if attending remotely.

Members were asked to ensure that all debate be 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 Officers.

C297 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE -

This was received from Councillor G. John.

C298 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meetings held on 21st March, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

C299 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C300 ANNUAL EQUALITY MONITORING REPORT 2022-23 (REF) -

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8th February, 2024 was presented.

Councillor Sivagnanam said there had been a good discussion of the report at the meeting and thanked the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for their comments. Points raised at the meeting were addressed by Officers although some were not related to the Monitoring report itself.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the discussion and comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8th February, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C301 REVIEW OF VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL STRATEGIC EQUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR PERIOD 2024-25 (REF) -

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8th February, 2024 was presented.

Councillor Sivagnanam thanked the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for their comments and said there had been a good and robust discussion of the report that had been to Cabinet and referred to Scrutiny for consideration. Points raised at the meeting were addressed by Officers and useful comments were raised.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the discussion and comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8th February, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C302 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REGIME (REF) -

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th March, 2024 was presented.

Councillor Wilson thanked the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for their comments where concern was expressed concerning costs and cycling safety which were addressed by Officers, limited resources for carriageway defects and a gully cleaning operation that operated every 12 to 15 months. The Committee

suggested improving the usability of the C1V app for reporting defects, which Councillor Wilson advised was currently ongoing work as part of the digitalisation programme.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the discussion and comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th March, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C303 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th March, 2024 was presented.

The Leader thanked the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for the in-depth discussion on the Annual Delivery Plan Monitoring Report, which was also included within the report listed on item 11 of the meeting agenda.

Topics discussed at the meeting concerned externally funded projects such as the Barry Making Waves Project as part of Levelling Up funding that the Leader said would be part of a future update to Cabinet in the near future, the production of an initial draft for the Council's green infrastructure plan that would be consulted upon and a query over the compositions of the Town Board that would be formed as part of the UK Government's plans and the limited role for elected Members in that process. The Leader said the composition of those Boards was determined by UK Government and designed so that people of the respective town were represented and therefore a matter for UK Government, but there would be updates on that matter as it moved forward.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the discussion and comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th March, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C304 SERVICE PLANS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024/25 (REF) -

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th March, 2024 was presented.

The Leader moved that the item be fully considered alongside Item 12 on the agenda which concerned the same matter, which was agreed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the item be fully considered alongside Item 12 on the agenda which concerned the same matter.

Reason for decision

In order that the reference could be considered together with agenda item 12 on the Cabinet agenda.

C305 SERVICE PLANS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024/25 (REF) -

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 18th March, 2024 was presented.

The Leader moved that the item be fully considered alongside Item 12 on the agenda which concerned the same matter, which was agreed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the item be fully considered alongside Item 12 on the agenda which concerned the same matter.

Reason for decision

In order that the reference could be considered together with agenda item 12 on the Cabinet agenda.

C306 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL –

The minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 8th January, 2024 were presented.

Councillor Williams, as Chair of the Panel, said that items discussed at the meeting included a presentation on meeting the needs of children with disabilities which included some interesting case studies, the Draft Children and Young People Who Need Care and Support Strategy, the Transgender Toolkit report which had also been consider at Scrutiny Committee and the latest breakdown of Children Looked After.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 8th January, 2024 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C307 ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT:
QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2023-24 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The Leader presented the report, alongside the reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee that had been considered under agenda item 7, the purpose of which was to present Quarter 3 (Q3) performance results for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st December, 2023 in delivering the Council's 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan commitments as aligned to Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

All five Scrutiny Committees reviewed Q3 performance reports focussed on their own specific remits between 4th and 20th March, 2024 with the Healthy Living and Social Care and Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committees noting Q3 progress towards the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments. Specific comments arising from the review of Q3 performance from the Learning and Culture, Economy and Regeneration and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees were detailed in paragraphs 2.8 - 2.12 of the report.

Healthy Living and Social Care and Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committees considered and endorsed the report.

Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee requested a future report on the usage of libraries and initiatives that were being undertaken in libraries to go to a future meeting of the Committee and was a matter for the Committee to agree.

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee comments were considered as part of item 7 of the meeting agenda, and Cabinet would continue to talk to UK Government about the Town Board and how it would be fit for the needs of Barry.

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee raised concerns around the Vale of Glamorgan Council's increasing reliance on external funding for core aims and critical challenges, including non-statutory areas and services. The Leader said that it was a challenge for the Council in terms of provision of non-statutory services considering the financial challenges faced by the Council and that all Councils were having to be increasingly innovative in terms of access to available funding from multiple sources.

The Committee suggested tying in with the work currently being undertaken by the Committee's Task and Finish around the Procurement Strategy and the Leader said she looked forward to that work being completed. Committee also asked for a report to be provided concerning recruitment and retention of staff at the Council, including staff in local schools, which the Leader said was important to discuss.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the reference under item 7 of the meeting agenda, the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Quarter 3 (Q3) performance results be noted and the progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives be endorsed.

(2) T H A T having considered the views and recommendations of Scrutiny Committees in relation to Q3 performance, the identified remedial actions as the basis to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrated the progress being made towards achieving its commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.

(2) To ensure the Council was effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to meet performance requirements as outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and reflected the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximised its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.

C308 SERVICE PLANS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024/2025 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report, alongside the references from Environment and Regeneration and Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committees attached under agenda items 8 and 9, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet's approval of the priority actions as reflected in Service Plans and proposed service performance targets for the period 2024/2025 that will deliver the Council's Annual Delivery Plan (ADP).

Homes and Safe Communities and Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committees considered the report and endorsed Appendices A and B.

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee endorsed Appendices A and B and requested that the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group consider how each Committee took forward and supported the new performance reporting framework which the Leader agreed was a good idea and that the matter progress via that Committee.

Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee endorsed Appendices A and B and requested that Cabinet be informed going forward of the Scrutiny Committee's requests to receive information for consideration relating to cultural aspects and sustainable travel options being considered in relation to schools. The Leader recognised the reason for the request but was a challenge as the Service Plans were divided amongst the five Scrutiny remits and lead on those areas. Members were able to attend any Scrutiny Committee of which they were not a member, to contribute to discussions on specific topics at the relevant lead Committee. The Leader asked that the matter be referred to the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group for consideration how to frame such a discussion at the relevant Committees.

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee endorsed Appendices A and B. They asked that consideration be given to ensure that the performance indicators around corporate complaints remained sufficiently robust, to which the Leader said that had been a discussion she had been having with the Chair of Governance and Audit and ongoing work.

The included performance indicators in relation to how many residents were actively engaging with the Council's Communications Team was a very relevant topic and the Leader said that would also need to be considered alongside agenda item 17 on the meeting agenda.

Committee asked to look at strengthening and greater quantifying of performance indicators / actions around promoting equality and diversity within the Vale of Glamorgan and that would be referred to the team that were developing and monitoring the Council's Carbon Management Plan.

The consideration and representation of wider diversity and protected characteristics as part of future performance indicators was already part of ongoing equality work, as was having both qualitative and quantitative performance indicators to properly analyse the success of the relevant Council measures and services. The minimisation of jargon in terms of the Service Plans and Performance Targets and to fully explain the meaning of the acronyms was also being worked on as part of future communications.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the associated references listed under agenda items 8 and 9 along with the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the planned service activities for 2024/25 as contained in Service Plans (Appendix A) be approved.
- (2) T H A T the proposed measures and service performance targets aligned to the Corporate Plan Performance Measures Framework for 2024/25 (Appendix B) be approved.

(3) T H A T the discussion and comments of the Environment and Regeneration, Learning and Culture and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees be noted and endorsed, with the relevant aspects referred to the relevant Committees or Officers.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that service contributions through the planned activities contained in Service Plans and associated performance targets reflected the commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/2025 and would enable the Council to demonstrate progress towards achieving its in-year commitments.

(2) To ensure the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Measurement Framework identified a relevant set of performance measures and targets against which the Annual Delivery Plan could be monitored and measured during 2024/2025 in line with the performance requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

(3) Having regard to the contents of the references and discussions at the meeting.

C309 RENEWAL OF VALE OF GLAMORGAN BROADCASTING COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY DEED OF GRANT (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Members on the activities of Bro Radio and to seek approval for an extension of funding for a further five years as part of the approach to support core community organisations.

It was important to have a skilled and professional organisation locally to cover local community news, provide volunteering opportunities and upskill local people. Many of the young journalism students that had worked with Bro Radio went on to work for other news outlets having had a good grounding in journalism whilst volunteering at Bro Radio.

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 renewal of the Deed of Grant between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Broadcasting Community Interest Company be approved for a further five year period (31st July, 2024 – 31st March, 2029) with a continuation of the allocation of £24k per annum.

(3) T H A T authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, to prepare and execute the Deed of Grant and related payment processes.

(4) T H A T Cabinet receive an annual update on the work of Bro Radio over the term of the funding.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To provide Cabinet with an update on the work of Bro Radio.

(2) To approve the further funding of Bro Radio for a period of five years.

(3) To enable the funding arrangement to be regularised by way of a Deed of Grant and associated payments to be made.

(4) To provide Cabinet with an overview of the work of Bro Radio on an annual basis.

C310 PROPOSAL TO GRANT FREEMEN AND FREEWOMEN STATUS TO THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to consider granting the members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) (Vale of Glamorgan), a registered charity in the Vale of Glamorgan, the title of Honorary Freemen and Honorary Freewomen in recognition of their distinguished service to residents and visitors of the Vale of Glamorgan in the RNLI's 200th anniversary year with the freedom ceremony to be held on Saturday, 1st June, 2024 on Barry Island.

The Leader was delighted to bring the report to Cabinet for consideration having mentioned the intention for the proposal at Full Council recently. The RLNI in the Vale of Glamorgan had provided exceptional service to their communities. If the recommendations to the report were to be agreed, the matter would be referred to Full Council for consideration, and if passed by a two-thirds majority, would be presented at the Festival of the Sea at Barry Island on 1st or 2nd June, 2024.

The RLNI had also been supportive in providing mental health support and have a bench on Penarth Esplanade as a recognition of need to support their community.

Councillor Sivagnanam supported the recommendations which demonstrated the power of volunteering and associated expertise alongside working in partnership with the Council to support residents of the Vale of Glamorgan in all its resorts.

Councillor Brooks looked forward to seeing the proposal being considered by Full Council, and if agreed, part of the Festival of the Sea in June.

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 Cabinet recommend to Full Council that pursuant to their powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confer upon the members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in the Vale of Glamorgan the title of Honorary Freemen and Freewomen of the County Borough in recognition of the distinguished service history within the Vale of Glamorgan.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources to ensure the honour was commemorated during the planned Festival of the Sea event scheduled to take place at Barry Island on 1st and 2nd June, 2024.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To consider the granting of Freemen and Freewomen status to members of the RNLI in the Vale of Glamorgan in pursuance of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

(2) To allow arrangements to be made to commemorate the proposed Freemen and Freewomen status.

**C311 USE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S EMERGENCY POWERS (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to notify Cabinet of the exercising of Emergency Powers by the Chief Executive since the last report on 25th January, 2024.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the use of the Chief Executive's Emergency Powers be noted.

Reasons for decisions

To inform Cabinet.

C312 CORPORATE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED CARE AND SUPPORT 2024-28 (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to endorse the Corporate Strategy for Children who need Care and Support 2024-28.

Councillor Williams said that the Strategy and Action Plan had been considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel, Healthy Living and Social Care, Homes and Safe Communities and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committees who supported it, as well as the families, children, young people, carers and consulted who had been consulted.

Councillor Birch said that it was an important working document to allow children to go on and achieve in education, and the earlier any interventions were put in place the better as there were demonstrable links between early intervention and achievement. The Strategy was an important working document for those involved with working with children.

The Leader agreed and added that the Strategy had been written specifically with children and young people in mind and passed on Cabinet's thanks to the team who worked on and put the Strategy together.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

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

RESOLVED – T H A T the progress made in developing the new four-year Corporate Strategy and Action Plan for Children who need Care and Support be noted and that the Corporate Strategy and Action Plan for Children who need Care and Support 2024-28 be endorsed.

Reason for decision

To achieve Cabinet endorsement of the Corporate Strategy and Action Plan for Children who need Care and Support 2024-28.

C313 LET'S TALK ABOUT LIFE IN THE VALE – SURVEY REPORT AND FURTHER ENGAGEMENT (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to report on the outcome of the Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey exercise and plans for further engagement.

The survey was primarily conducted online and Data Cymru considered the sample to be very robust. The overall margin for error was 1.6% and was considered to be very good in statistical terms.

There were a wide range of topics covered in the survey with questions separated into 11 themes, including public service priorities, cost of living, climate change, volunteering, and travel. Being able to easily access care and healthcare services 'when my family or I need them', live in a neighbourhood that is clean and tidy and buy or rent a good quality home were rated as respondents' top priorities and were in line with current Council plans.

However, the results also showed there was more work to be done in how the Council explained its work and engaged residents in decision making and was an area where attention must be focussed.

Public participation had been an established priority for the Council for the last two years. In the latest Annual Delivery Plan there was an identified need to continue to deliver the Public Participation Strategy, including the use of place making to improve how the Council involved, communicated and consulted with people and ensured citizens had the opportunity to have their voices heard.

There was a need to be more transparent about what the Council was and was not able to do, especially when decisions the Council had to take did not reflect the feedback sought on them.

Recent experience in setting the budget and priorities for the year ahead showed there was a need to do more to explain how financial constraints, legislative requirements, and increasing demand for Council services had a knock-on effect on the Council's ability to continue to deliver things that residents were used to and had come to expect. The Council was not alone in the challenge and welcomed the opportunity to work with others to raise the profile of what Local Authorities had to do and have discussions about what mattered most to residents across Wales.

There was a need to build on the relationships the Council had with community groups to get messages to people who wanted to improve their community, had an interest in what the Council did, but did not currently feel that they could get involved or help shape its decisions. The Council's Reshaping programme highlighted that as a key opportunity to empower communities and importantly to protect services and facilities that mattered most to the people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The results in the report showed that the actions that had been identified in the Public Participation Strategy were the right ones but also showed that the Council needed to be delivering on those more quickly.

Councillor Sivagnanam proposed an additional recommendation for the Council's existing Public Participation Strategy to be reviewed, its actions updated and reprioritised based on the survey results from Let's Talk About Life in the Vale, and all progress to date be reported to Cabinet before the summer recess and incorporated into the Council's Annual Self-Assessment report, which was agreed.

The Leader said it was encouraging that the outcomes of the survey echoed recent budget decisions in terms of what residents of the Vale of Glamorgan said they wanted. There was sometimes confusion regarding the responsibilities of the Council, for example not being responsible for health care, but the Council did work

with partners to deliver against the needs of the population. It was important to talk, explain and listen to ideas about how to deliver services that met the needs of residents.

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 results of the survey, which detailed the experiences and priorities of Vale of Glamorgan residents and would inform future service delivery and feed into strategic planning, including the Council's new Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plans, be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration and that any views be referred back to Cabinet.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee as part of that Committee's work on the Strengthening Communities theme of the Reshaping Programme and that any views be referred back to Cabinet.

(4) T H A T the report be shared via email and in person with members of the Public Services Board, the Equalities Consultative Forum and the Council's diversity networks for their information.

(5) T H A T the Council's existing Public Participation Strategy be reviewed, its actions updated and reprioritised based on the survey results from Let's Talk About Life in the Vale, and all progress to date be reported to Cabinet before the summer recess and incorporated into the Council's Annual Self-Assessment report.

Reasons for decisions

(1) The Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey exercise was an important first step in preparing the Council's next Corporate Plan, in order for it to reflect the needs of the community. and informing the Reshaping Programme.

(2) To enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider the findings of the survey and feedback their views to Cabinet.

(3) To enable the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee to consider the findings of the survey and feedback their views to Cabinet.

(4) To ensure that other elected Members and relevant partners gained a better understanding of the experiences and priorities of Vale of Glamorgan residents.

(5) To review the Public Participation Strategy based on the survey results from Let's Talk About Life in the Vale and be incorporated into the Council's Annual Self-Assessment report.