

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 18th July, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor L. Burnett (Chair); Councillors B.E. Brooks G. John, S. Sivagnanam and E. Williams.

Also Present: Councillors E. Goodjohn and E. Penn.

C71 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader commenced by advising of some housekeeping issues and advised 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

C72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors R.M. Birch, S.D. Perkes and M.R. Wilson.

C73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C74 “TOOLS OF EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY” ELECTED MEMBER WORKSHOP(S) (REF) –

The reference from Democratic Services Committee held on 1st July, 2024 was presented.

The Leader thanked the Committee for the reference and its associated comments and said that the workshops had been for the benefit of Elected Members who sat on Scrutiny Committees. Feedback had been extremely positive and the post-session survey results were attached as an Appendix to the Report. Members commented that they were useful sessions which made a difference to Members in terms of scrutinising the work of the Council.

Committee recommended to Cabinet that the “Tools of Effective Scrutiny” workshop be included as a mandatory session within the 2027 Elected Member Induction Programme.

Having considered the reference, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the “Tools of Effective Scrutiny” workshop be included as a mandatory session within the 2027 Elected Member Induction Programme.

Reason for decision

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

C75 HYBRID MEETING PLATFORM UPDATE (REF) –

The reference from the Extraordinary Democratic Services Committee held on 16th July, 2024 was presented. The Leader thanked the Committee for the reference and its associated comments and said there had been a good discussion at the meeting.

The outcomes of the six-month trial were included in the Appendices to the Report which showed that the vast majority of Scrutiny Members had preferred to attend meetings remotely and had not been detrimental to the ability to participate in meetings. Although the proposal concerned evening meetings being held on a remote basis only, were there to be a matter on a Scrutiny agenda considered to be of County wide interest that was determined by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive, then meetings could still be undertaken on a hybrid basis.

The Chair of Democratic Services Committee, Councillor Dr. Johnson, and Committee Member Councillor Carroll both expressed their disappointment at the proposed recommendation to undertake Scrutiny Committees on a remote basis but overall the recommendations were passed by the Committee.

With regards the format of meetings, the Leader said that the Council was still in a developmental stage and discussing the complexity of Welsh to English translation, livestreaming and meeting management with other Councils. As work progressed to find the best solutions going forward it was decided to move to a 1+1+1 contract agreement in agreement with the provider.

Having considered the reference, and in agreement with the Resolutions of the Democratic Services Committee, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the contract with VP-AV Limited would continue on a 1 + 1 + 1 year basis in order that future Remote and Hybrid Council meetings could be held on the EasyConf software platform.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Corporate Resources and the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, to continue the contract with VP-AV Limited on a 1 + 1 + 1 year basis from 21st August, 2024.

(3) T H A T all Scrutiny Committee meetings be held on a remote basis only unless a matter of County wide interest had been determined by the Chair of the

Scrutiny Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive and the Council's current Multi-Location Meetings (MLM) Policy in the Constitution be amended accordingly.

(4) T H A T the MLM Policy be amended to read that the Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Joint Committee Annual Meeting could be held on a hybrid (and /or in person) basis subject to the Chair of the Committee's agreement.

Reasons for decisions

(1-4) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

C76 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, as the accounts were complete and the report was to inform Cabinet of the provisional financial position of the Council for the 2023/24 financial year, although preparation was already underway for the next cycle of budget discussions.

For 2023/23, pressures were experienced due to delays and constraints associated with delivery of savings targets. The net amount remaining within school balances as at 31st March, 2024 was £2.039m, however there was significant variation amongst schools to reach that figure, with some in surplus positions and others with significant balances. Council staff were already working with schools to find ways of tackling and minimising any deficits in 2024/25, with the new proposed reserve available as support if required.

Cabinet passed on their thanks to Council Officers for their work towards achieving efficiency targets and savings for 2023/24.

Councillor Williams, as the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, referred to the overspend in social care because of increased demand and challenge throughout 2023/24. Providers had also struggled during the year. Reserves had been utilised to support the service but was not a sustainable solution for the two to three years to come. He looked forward to the discussion to follow at Scrutiny Committee.

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 report and the financial measures taken and proposed be approved.

(2) T H A T the allocation of overall Council surplus as set out below be approved.

- £2m transfer to new reserve to offset school deficits on a provisional basis in 2024/25.
- £80k to Council Fund to offset general pressures.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.

(2) To approve the allocation of the 2023/24 surplus to support the delivery of schemes supporting key priorities identified by the Council.

(3) To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.

C77 CAPITAL CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report, as the accounts were complete, and the report was to inform Cabinet of the provisional financial position of the Council's Capital Programme for the 2023/24 financial year. The report outlined the outturn of 2023/24 Capital Programme by Directorate and by relevant funding sources with 85.35% of the programme spent before the end of the financial year. It was important to recognise the work undertaken to deliver the capital programme and the schemes successfully delivered in 2023/24.

The Leader looked forward to the discussion to follow at Scrutiny Committee.

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 year end capital position for financial year 2023/24 be noted.

(2) T H A T the additional scheme budgets as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

(3) T H A T the summary position of the changes in the Capital Programme by directorate from approval at Council on 6th March, 2023 to 31st March, 2024, as set out in Appendix 2, be noted.

(4) T H A T the Emergency Power approved in respect of the slippage as set out in Appendix 3 be noted.

(5) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To inform Cabinet of the year end capital position for financial year 2023/24.

(2) To inform Cabinet of the additional schemes added to the approved programme for 2023/24.

(3) To inform Cabinet of the changes to the Approved Capital Programme set on 6th March, 2023.

(4) To advise Cabinet of the approved slippage in the Emergency Powers in the 2023/24 Capital Programme

(5) To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.

C78 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2023/24 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to present to Cabinet the annual review report on Treasury Management 2023/24.

The Leader further advised that Treasury Management training would be made available for all Elected Members again this year as it was such an important area of work for the Council.

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 annual report on Treasury Management 2023/24 be endorsed and that the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to referral to Full Council for Approval.

Reason for decision

To accept and refer the report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Full Council.

C79 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025/26 TO 2029/30 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to set the strategy for development of the Council's 2025/26 Budget and 2025/26 to 2029/30 Medium Term Financial Plan.

There was little budgetary flexibility with 81% of the Council's budget committed to Education, Housing, Social Care and Council Tax Support. A prolonged period of high inflation had contributed to higher interest rates and lower growth, with July's interest rate figures being higher than hoped.

The funding gap for 2025/26 was forecast at £9.392m, and over a 5-yr period, £34.5m. Those figures were likely to grow because of emerging pressures which were subject to review over the summer/autumn period.

Previously, savings were one of the first aspects to be considered, however, to meet increasing levels of need going forward, measures such as transformation were being considered to address the gap with Officers considering a number of initiatives to be considered later in the year.

Reserves would continue to be reviewed and further reports on the financial situation would be available throughout the year alongside the budget for consultation in January, continuous engagement with schools, residents, interest groups and in-depth discussion at Scrutiny Committees before bringing forward balanced budget proposals for consideration at Full Council in March 2025.

Councillor Williams referred to the inflationary pressures that affected the Council which were complex and challenging. He hoped that Members would consider the report in detail and consider the ongoing budgetary matters fully at both Scrutiny and Full Council.

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 challenging financial position faced by the Council with a funding gap of £9.392m in 2025/26 and £34.497M across the medium term be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet lobby Welsh Government for an appropriate settlement in the face of the continued inflationary pressures on schools and social care provision and authorise Council Officers to do the same through appropriate networks.

(3) T H A T officers review the cost pressures and savings commitments across the summer.

(4) T H A T officers develop proposals against the redefined transformation programme, the Reshaping Programme, to complement the Financial Strategy and contribute to the medium-term financial sustainability of the Council.

(5) T H A T the report be referred to the Council's Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees to review the Financial Strategy and assumptions made on costs and funding in the Medium Term Financial Plan refresh and for comments to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

(6) T H A T a further report on the Council's budget be presented to Cabinet in due course as outlined in the report.

Reasons for decisions

(1) There continued to be significant financial pressures impacting on the 2025/26 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 and it was essential to inform Cabinet of the magnitude of the challenge and for work to commence as early as possible on establishing a balanced budget and sustainable financial position in the medium term.

(2) The challenges could not be overstated at the time and many of the cost pressures could not be mitigated. A significantly better settlement than was currently forecast would be essential if there were not to be reductions in service provision.

(3) There were a number of strategies to balancing the budget other than attracting more funding and delivering savings. Costs needed to be managed too.

(4) To enable the medium-term financial sustainability of the Council to be strengthened by a new iteration of the Reshaping Programme.

(5) The Council was open to clear and transparent financial reporting and an appropriate level of challenge to the management of its finances. A key element of the challenge process was through the Council's scrutiny function.

(6) Given the financial challenges, clear and regular reporting was essential.

C80 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide Cabinet with an update on performance against the Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) 2023-2028 targets.

Objectives for the CAMP were set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report. The Strategic Insight Board, made up of representatives from across the Council brought together their collective knowledge of governance, planning practices and technical expertise following on from the "Reshaping - A Future Transformation Programme for the Council" work to transform individual services started as part of a transformational change programme.

Pages 5 to 7 of the report referred to office accommodation, including Hen Goleg Day Service, C1V and finding the right use for the Docks Office which was a listed building, iconic within the town and 'of the people', with the Cabinet fully recognising its place within the town and that the building should never go out of public ownership.

Future updates would also come forward as part of the Corporate Landlord Model.

Councillor Williams said that two of the examples of buildings were connected to social care, agreeing that the Docks Office was an iconic building but not the most appropriate building for staff and service users, as well as having maintenance costs that could be addressed as part of future considerations for use. With regards Hen Goleg, there had been successful engagement with service users as part of the process and overall feedback received was positive.

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 progress made against the targets set by the 2023-2028 Corporate Asset Management Plan as described in the report and Appendix A be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for their consideration with any views from the Committee referred back to Cabinet for their consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To update Cabinet as to progress made against the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2023-2028 targets.
- (2) To ensure the relevant Scrutiny Committee was aware of the progress of actions against the Corporate Asset Management Plan targets and had the opportunity to consider the same and share any comments with the Cabinet.

C81 APPLICATION TO BE RECOGNISED AS A COUNTY OF SANCTUARY (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval of the draft application (attached to the report) to be accredited as a County of Sanctuary, building on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's inclusion in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index as one of the top 100 UK workplaces and the Notice of Motion approved to Full Council on 29th July, 2019.

The Leader said it would not have been possible to apply for accreditation were it not for the actions of residents of the Vale of Glamorgan over many years.

Appendix A to the report detailed the draft submission to the City of Sanctuary network and showed how the Vale of Glamorgan Council already supported its residents as an Age Friendly County, recognised as Race Equality Matters Trailblazer, a Stonewall Diversity Champion and a Disability Confident Employer. The Appendix also laid out the criteria that had to be met, what was currently and had been done and what would be done going forward.

Councillor John referred to evidence from Glamorgan Archives regarding Belgian refugees who stayed in the Boverton House area from 1914 to 1919, and a newspaper of the time printed a piece by a Belgian journalist who expressed thanks to the people of the Boverton area for their care and welcome during that period and could possibly be used as an example to support the application.

The Leader said that as a coastal community, the area around Barry had grown around the Docks in a very short space of time and there were many similar examples of people being welcomed to the area. It would be good to collate such histories regarding the actions of residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. An additional Recommendation was proposed to thank all staff and residents of the Vale of Glamorgan who had played a part in making the Vale of Glamorgan a safe and welcoming place, which was agreed.

Councillor Brooks said the application for accreditation as a County of Sanctuary was on the shoulders of previous examples of welcoming people to the County over a long period of time, including more recently refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine and emphasised the welcome offered by residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. The Deputy Leader also looked forward to the discussion to follow at Scrutiny Committee.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report, including additional Resolution (6) and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and Appendix A in relation to work to support the Council's submission be noted.
- (2) T H A T, subject to Resolution (4), the Vale of Glamorgan County of Sanctuary document attached at Appendix A be approved to seek accreditation on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- (3) T H A T, subject to Resolution (4), the action plan outlined in Appendix A, including the drafting of a Sanctuary Strategy, be approved.
- (4) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources

Scrutiny Committee for consideration with any views of the Committee being shared with Cabinet.

(5) T H A T the report be distributed to members of the Public Services Board, the Equalities Consultative Forum, and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

(6) T H A T all staff and residents of the Vale of Glamorgan who had played a part in making the Vale of Glamorgan a safe and welcoming place be thanked for their efforts.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable Cabinet to consider the breadth of work underway across the organisation that would contribute to the Council being recognised as a County of Sanctuary.

(2) To enable the Council to formally seek accreditation as a County of Sanctuary.

(3) To ensure the work of the Council to support those in need of sanctuary was coordinated and aligned with the wider work of the Authority.

(4) To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

(5) To update other key stakeholders on progress being made in the area.

(6) To give thanks to those making the Vale of Glamorgan a safe space.

C82 RESHAPING: DELIVERING PLACE BASED REGENERATION: STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AND PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND WAYS OF WORKING (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek authority to establish a revised Regeneration programme and associated project governance arrangements. It was important to consider how the different schemes would meet their individual objectives but also be cohesive. With the level of regeneration work currently being undertaken it was important to set out appropriate reporting mechanisms and decision making frameworks to be able to fully monitor progress and achieve relevant programme deadlines.

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 ‘Strategic Growth and Investment Board’ be renamed the ‘Investment Advisory Panel.’
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Executive Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to create, amend, rename or where necessary, delete project and programme boards and agree any associated terms of reference.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to amend internal processes, procedures to support any proposed changes to governance arrangements.
- (4) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to agree, and if necessary, amend the membership of the Investment Advisory Panel.
- (5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Executive Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to agree, and if necessary, amend the terms of reference of Investment Advisory Panel.
- (6) T H A T Cabinet receive regular updates on the work undertaken on that aspect of Reshaping as previously approved and as described in the body of the report.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Cabinet previously agreed the title of that board but renaming was required to reflect the agreed role and remit of the programme.
- (2) To enable governance arrangements to be put in place and to enable the delivery of regeneration programmes and projects.
- (3) To allow processes and procedures to be amended in order to support place-based regeneration across the County.
- (4) To agree membership of the Investment Advisory Panel.
- (5) To agree the term of reference of the Investment Advisory Panel.
- (6) To enable Cabinet to retain oversight of the delivery of associated schemes.

C83 LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN (LAEP) VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DL/SP) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Deputy Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to approve the Vale of Glamorgan Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), attached at Appendix A.

Paragraph 2.5 of the report referred to need to transition the energy system in the administrative area of the Vale of Glamorgan to net zero by 2050 as the priority, however it was also important to work towards 'Net Zero 2030' as a target. Recommendation (2) of the report proposed delegated authority being granted to the Director of Place to make typographical or other minor changes as necessary as the LAEP would be a live document which would be reviewed and adapted over time.

Councillor Williams said the report stated and quantified the current position within the Vale of Glamorgan and was a constructive way forward that the public would be able to engage with.

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 Local Area Energy Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan be approved.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place to make typographical or other minor changes, as necessary.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allow the plan to be adopted and taken forward.
- (2) To make typographical or minor changes as necessary without the need to seek approval.

C84 ITALIAN GARDENS SHELTER – TO GRANT A SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE, TO THE EXISTING LEASE, BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND COFFI CO. (NBS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to grant a supplemental lease to add the use and management of the Italian Gardens Shelter public conveniences located on Penarth Esplanade to the existing agreement.

The Leader said that the proposal would fit well with the existing lease and make more effective use of available space.

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 proposed supplemental lease to the existing lease with Coffi Co, incorporating the use of the male toilets for kitchen space and retaining the remaining areas as conveniences, for customer and public use, be approved.

(2) T H A T the disposal of those facilities by lease from Council control be agreed in principle.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, to finalise the remaining details of the terms and arrange for the lease to be executed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) So that Coffi Co could undertake the necessary building works, increase their restaurant space as well as enhancing the facilities available for public use.

(2) So the benefits of revenue savings associated with the proposal could be captured at the earliest opportunity.

(3) So the supplemental lease could be arranged as soon as the relevant asset disposal procedures had been agreed and finalised.

C85 DISPOSAL OF PARCELS OF HOUSING OWNED LAND THAT HAVE NO VIABLE USES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet approval to dispose of three parcels of non-operational housing land suitable for use incidental to the enjoyment of the adjacent dwelling house/s only (as identified at Appendices A, B and C 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 the parcels of Housing land shown at Appendices A, B and C be declared as surplus to Council requirements.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Housing and Building Services to dispose of the land shown on the plan at Appendices A, B and C under sections 32-34 of the Housing Act 1985 subject to compliance with the relevant legislative provisions, any statutory consents required and Resolutions (3) – (5) below.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services, and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, and Head of Finance / Operational Manager Financial Services to appoint an external valuer to provide a market valuation report for those pieces of land and agree the appropriate terms and conditions for disposal of same.

(4) T H A T the Council relied on Consent E of the General Consents for the Disposal of Houses and Land 1994 made under the Housing Act 1985 for the disposal to comply with the relevant legislative provisions and any statutory consents required.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to advertise the proposed disposal of the land indicated at Appendix C (sites A and B) in accordance of s123 (2A) Local Government Act 1972.

(6) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to formalise any disposals subject to the Resolutions above.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the Council's Constitution

(2) To ensure compliance with the relevant legislative provisions, any statutory consents required and Resolutions above.

(3) To allow for the land to be disposed on suitable terms and conditions.

(4) To ensure compliance with the relevant legislative provisions and any statutory consents required.

(5) To ensure that the disposal of land previously used as public open space was subject to the required public consultation processes.

(6) To legally formalise the disposal of the land and to ensure compliance with statute and subject to the Resolutions above.

C86 ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT: 2023/2024 (SCH) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Cabinet on the work that had been undertaken in relation to corporate arrangements for safeguarding across the Council.

With regards Disclosure and Barring Service (DSB) checks, Councillor Williams said that it was a challenge to get 100% of the required checks done across Council and schools staff, but currently stood at 98% and all would be in place for the start of the

September term. Members who hold specific roles and responsibilities and required an enhanced DBS check were all in date.

The Leader said that it was interesting to see the results within the data dashboard that showed cross-Council effects rather than just for Social 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 the work that had been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet continue to receive six monthly reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the effectiveness of relevant Policies.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to Healthy Living and Social Care, Learning and Culture, Home and Safe Communities, Governance and Audit and Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that Cabinet was aware of recent developments in corporate arrangements for safeguarding.
- (2) To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of the key area of corporate working and be assured of effective safeguarding taking place.
- (3) To respond to requests that each Scrutiny Committee be provided with update reports.

C87 LET'S TALK ABOUT LIFE IN THE VALE – REVIEW OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to report on the review and reprioritisation of actions in the Public Participation Strategy in light of the results of the Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey exercise.

Councillor Sivagnanam said that when the results of Let's Talk about Life in the Vale were reported to Cabinet on 11th April, 2024, she tabled an additional Recommendation that a full update of progress to date in delivering the Strategy would be brought to Cabinet, which was agreed. The matter was also considered by Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee who commented back to Cabinet in June and agreed that their comments also be addressed in the

forthcoming report. Appendix B to the report set out the common themes identified when reviewing the results of the survey as well as the comments forwarded for consideration by Cabinet by Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as well as how those issues were currently planned to be addressed in the Public Participation Strategy and any additional proposed actions.

In line with the comments made and themes discussed it was proposed that three of the current actions were prioritised:

- Set up and promote the ePetitions process.
- Deliver a campaign to enhance understanding of what Councillors do and how the Council functions. As part of this, existing web pages would be updated.
- Develop a series of case studies to showcase where effective public participation had resulted in positive outcomes for stakeholders and the community.

The Leader said that the Participate Vale web pages had been particularly useful as a communication portal with residents of the Waterfront as information was able to be placed online from the consortium to update residents and for residents to be able to feed back to the Council.

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 conclusions drawn by various groups following the publication of the results of the Let's Talk About Life in the Vale ('Let's Talk') survey and suggestions for how the experiences and priorities of Vale residents could be used to better inform future service delivery be noted.

(2) T H A T the review of the Public Participation Strategy be noted.

(3) T H A T the actions highlighted within the report being prioritised as part of the Council's work to deliver its Public Participation Strategy be endorsed.

(4) T H A T Cabinet receive further updates on the progress being made under the Public Participation Strategy as part of the Annual Self-Assessment Report and standalone reports in due course.

Reasons for decisions

(1) The Let's Talk survey exercise was an important first step in preparing the Council's next Corporate Plan and wider service delivery, in order for it to reflect the needs of the community.

(2) To ensure Cabinet and other Elected Members were assured the Strategy and accompanying was adequate and relevant.

- (3) To ensure the Council's work to develop its Communications and Participation functions was in line with the views of residents and Elected Members.
- (4) To enable Cabinet to maintain oversight of the work underway.

C88 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT (PART I) –

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

**C89 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS ADVISORY PANEL –
(Urgent by reason of the need to appoint Governors to Governing Bodies prior to the Summer break in order that vacancies could be filled for the commencement of the Autumn Term)**

The minutes of the Local Authority Governors Advisory Panel held on 10th July, 2024 were presented.

The Leader said that the minutes had been forwarded to Cabinet as an urgent item as a topic of discussion at the meeting concerned applications for vacancies as Governors at Stanwell School that required Cabinet consideration to take effect from 1st September, 2024.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the minutes of the Local Authority Governors Advisory Panel held on 10th July, 2024 be noted.
- (2) T H A T having regard to the applications received and the recommendations of the Panel, the appointments to the school's Governing Body be approved.

Reason for decision

- (1-2) In noting the minutes.