

## CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

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

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

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

Also Present: Councillors B. Loveluck-Edwards and N.C. Thomas.

### **C220 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.

### **C221 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –**

This was received from Councillor B.E. Brooks.

### **C222 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### **C223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **C224 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2025/26, RENT SETTING 2025/26 AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2025/26 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Leader presented the report to set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the financial year 2025/26, set the rents and service charges for the forthcoming rent year beginning 1st April, 2025 and present the 30 Year Housing Business Plan starting financial year 2025/26.

The Leader said there had been a lot of interest in the Council's housing building programme which had delivered and would continue to deliver numbers in the

hundreds per year going forward, but that there were potential ongoing associated revenue costs where borrowing may be required.

The report had been considered by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on 8th January, 2025 and had been attended by the Leader and Councillors John, Wilson and Perkes as the relevant Cabinet Member for the matter. Following a full conversation, Committee made no further recommendations and noted the report.

There were some typographical errors in two of the Recommendations to the report that the Leader asked Cabinet to be aware of and which required amendment. Recommendation (2) referred to paragraph 2.17, which should have referred to paragraph 2.25. Recommendation (3) referred to paragraphs 2.18 to 2.25, which should have referred to paragraphs 2.27 to 2.36.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report, the proposed amendment to Recommendations (2) and (3) of the published report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet recommended to Full Council the approval of the final Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2025/26 set out below:

	<b>Original 2024/25</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Final Proposed Budget 2025/26</b>
			<b>£000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Supervision & Management – General	4,695	214	4,909
Supervision & Management – Special	1,949	13	1,962
Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	920	5,920
Capital Financing Costs	5,792	1,097	6,889
Rent, Rates, Taxes & Other Charges	270	28	298
Increase in Provision for Bad Debts	1,027	(336)	691
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	8,197	(1,218)	6,979
	<b>26,930</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>27,648</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Dwelling Rents	(25,793)	(365)	(26,158)
Non Dwelling Rents	(186)	(13)	(199)
Interest	(45)	(170)	(215)
Charges For Services and Facilities	(684)	(133)	(817)
Contribution towards expenditure	(94)	(1)	(95)
Grant Income	(205)	0	(205)
	<b>(27,007)</b>	<b>(682)</b>	<b>(27,689)</b>

<b>(Surplus) / deficit for the year</b>	<b>(77)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>(41)</b>
<b>Working Balance Brought Forward as at 1st April 2025</b>	<b>(3,524)</b>	<b>(667)</b>	<b>(4,191)</b>
<b>Working Balance Carried Forward as at 31st March 2026</b>	<b>(4,191)</b>	<b>(41)</b>	<b>(4,232)</b>

(2) T H A T Cabinet recommended to Full Council an average rent increase of 2.7%, as set out in paragraphs 2.25.

(3) T H A T Cabinet recommended that Full Council approves the increase suggested for other services as set out in the table below and in paragraphs 2.27 to 2.36.

<b>50 Week Basis</b>	<b>2024/25 Actual Charges</b>	<b>2025/26 Proposed Charges</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Grounds Maintenance	1.47	1.51	per week
Cleaning of communal areas	2.75	3.00	per week
Lighting of communal areas	2.51	3.60	per week
Laundry Facilities	0.62	0.41	per week
Window Cleaning	0.18	0.18	per week
Lift Maintenance	1.33	1.25	per week
Door Entry	0.71	0.80	per week
Intercom	0.95	1.29	per week
CCTV	0.00	1.43	per week
Sewerage Treatment Plants	455.25	467.54	per annum
Cesspools	439.00	451.00	per annum

(4) T H A T Cabinet recommended that Full Council approves all changes to rents and service charges be implemented from 1st April, 2025, with the first week of April being a non-chargeable rent week and that increase notices are sent to tenants two months in advance of the new charges coming into effect as required by the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.

(5) T H A T the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2025/54 be approved.

(6) T H A T use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order for Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2025/26, Rent Setting and Housing Business Plan to be referred to Full Council on 13th January, 2025.

### Reasons for decisions

(1) To facilitate budget monitoring and to demonstrate a balanced budget with a drawdown from HRA reserves to bring the reserve back into balance with the Housing Business Plan 2025/26.

- (2) In order that new rent levels were set within the specified Welsh Government (WG) guidelines and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.
- (3) That charges were approved and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.
- (4) In order that charges were approved, new rent levels were set within the specified Welsh Government (WG) guidelines and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.
- (5) To obtain Cabinet approval for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2025/55 (draft) prior to referral to Full Council.
- (6) To allow the report to be referred to Full Council on 13th January, 2025 in order to comply with the Rented Homes Wales Act and meet the requirement of the Housing Business plan submission for 31st March, 2025.

## **C225 CABINET QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAMMES – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY TO MARCH 2025 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –**

The Leader presented the report to involve, engage and consult Members of the progress to date in respect of Cabinet Quarterly Work Programmes for the period October to December 2024 and to confirm the Quarterly Work Programme for January to March 2025.

Democratic Services and related report authors were thanked for working to ensure that there was no hold up to the business of the Council. Upcoming matters included the budget reports, Corporate Plan, Proposed Events Programme and a Levelling Up Fund Round 3 Update.

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 updates to the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme for October to December 2024 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme January to March 2025 attached at Appendix 2 to the report be endorsed.

### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To monitor progress.
- (2) To approve the Work Programme for January to March 2025.

**C226 CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SCHEME 2027-2028 (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken on the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements Scheme for the academic year 2027-2028.

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 its associated appendices be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements Scheme (Appendix A to the report) for all maintained schools in the Vale of Glamorgan for the 2027 – 2028 academic year be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the Council met its obligations in terms of the Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024.
- (2) The Council was required to consult and formulate a Co-ordinated School Admissions Scheme by January 2025 for the 2027 – 2028 academic year.

**C227 DISPOSAL OF FORMER CARETAKER'S HOUSE, 5 ST PAUL'S AVENUE, BARRY (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to dispose of Former Caretaker's House, 5 St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

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 related property and land be declared surplus to the Council's requirements.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance/S151 Officer to dispose of the land as shown edged red on the plan at Appendix A to the report by the most appropriate means in consultation with the Director of Learning and Skills

and the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services on terms and conditions to be agreed.

(3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to prepare, complete and execute the appropriate legal documentation required to dispose of the site at the appropriate time.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To declare the site surplus to requirements as the land and property was no longer required for education purposes.

(2) To ensure that the Council obtained best consideration in accordance with its statutory and fiduciary obligations.

(3) To legally formalise the disposal of the land and property to obtain a capital receipt which would be used to reduce prudential borrowing and contribute towards funding the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, ensuring compliance with statute.

### **C228 CAR PARKING (NBS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to introduce off-street and on-street parking charges at several coastal locations, advise of future proposals for residential parking and determine the future of the Court Road Multi-Storey Car Park in Barry.

Councillor Wilson referred to Page 7 of the report concerning 'Off Street' Car Parking Proposals which discussed income, areas not currently subject to parking charges and the costs associated with car parks. Details of proposed charges were described in paragraph 2.11 to 2.18 of the associated report.

Referring to the table concerning the current charging schedule for coastal car parks in paragraph 2.19 of the report, Councillor Wilson advised of an amendment to the timing described in the table, changing from 08:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs, which was agreed.

A further proposed amendment was that in order to create 'churn', a maximum time limit of 4 hours would be put in place for on-street car parking, which was agreed.

Councillor Wilson then referred to Page 10 of the report concerning 'On Street' Car Parking Proposals for Barry Island and Penarth Seafront in and around The Esplanade.

Referring to the table in paragraph 2.31 of the report, Councillor Wilson advised of an amendment to the timing described in the table, changing from 08:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs, which was agreed.

With regard to Residential Permit Parking, it was proposed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council would continue not to levy a charge for residential parking permits.

Court Road Car Park had been in operation since 1973, its use had declined steadily and there were now considerable potential costs concerning structural defects to consider. There were alternative parking, public transport, Active Travel and car-sharing opportunities available which would be encouraged.

The Leader clarified that if the proposal to expand the charges to coastal resort car parks was agreed, those car parks would also be included as part of the available Season Tickets. The Council were also exploring a conversation with the Credit Union if residents would prefer to spread the cost of a Season Ticket and an update on that would be provided following those conversations.

The Leader also looked forward to the discussions to come at Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14th January, 2025.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report, the amendments as described above and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the introduction of coastal car park charges at Cold Knap (Barry), Bron y Mor (Barry), Portabello (Ogmore by Sea), Cliff Walk (Penarth) and West Farm (Southerndown) be agreed in principle.
- (2) T H A T the introduction of on-street charging at the locations specified at Barry Island and Penarth Esplanade be agreed in principle.
- (3) T H A T the closure of the multi-storey car park at Court Road in Barry and to the provision of a future report on the building and land at this location be agreed in principle.
- (4) T H A T no charges being levied on permits for residential parking schemes be agreed in principle.
- (5) T H A T the introduction of digital residential parking permits and to using excess revenue collected from residential parking enforcement in pursuance of creating several new residential parking locations each year be agreed in principle.
- (6) T H A T in pursuance of Resolution (2) delegated authority be granted in principle to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services to agree the extents for charging on-street at Barry Island and Penarth Seafront, as outlined within the report and for then progressing with the Traffic Regulation Order advertisement process.

(7) T H A T Cabinet would receive a further report on the future management arrangements for the car park at Cwm Colhuw, Llantwit Major.

(8) T H A T the report be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for its consideration at its meeting on 14th January, 2025.

(9) T H A T use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution, be agreed in order for the report to be considered by Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for its consideration at its meeting on 14th January, 2025.

(10) T H A T in view of no adverse recommendations being received from the above Committee, Resolutions (1) – (7) be agreed.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1-7) To ensure the 'in principle' agreement of Cabinet to the recommendations, prior to them being considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

(8-9) To permit consideration of those matters by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

(10) To permit all resolutions to be taken forward as promptly as possible.

#### **C229 SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of the requirement to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Esgyn service.

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 contents of the report be noted, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on in the agenda.

#### Reason for decision

To advise of the current position with this particular contract.

#### **C230 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 item of business

on the grounds that it involves 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.

**C231 SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE (PSHTE)  
(EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 14) (SCRUTINY – HOMES  
AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Esgyn service. A breakdown of the related procurement exercise was contained within the Key Items for Consideration within 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 award of the Esgyn service contract to Hafod be approved.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement to execute the Esgyn service contract with Hafod.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, which required contracts exceeding a value of £300k to be agreed by Cabinet.
- (2) To enable the contract documentation to be finalised with the successful support provider.