

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 20th February, 2025.

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

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

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

C257 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.

C258 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor S.D. Perkes.

C259 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C260 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C261 AUDIT WALES: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL JULY 2024 (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 was presented.

There was a detailed discussion of the matter at the meeting, with the Governance and Audit Committee's comments being referred to Cabinet under Committee Recommendation (2). Improvements concerning the budget process was a matter that had already been taken forward for consideration. The Leader said that further clarification was required concerning information as to why budgetary decisions were made when there had been previous criticism about the numbers of budget reports prepared previously but appreciated that Councillors wanted to be more involved in the process.

Committee's final comment concerned the Council needing to make bold decisions on what services it could afford and for there to be dialogue with the public on Council plans and budgets. The Leader said that in the current financial climate there were things that the Council was and was not able to do. Going forward with the new Corporate Plan, there would be opportunities for more dialogue on budgetary matters.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C262 CORPORATE COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 was presented.

The Leader said there had been an interesting discussion on the matter at the meeting regarding complaints and compliments. Information for 2023/24 had shown an increase in complaints received but with further investigation it was noted these may be related to how complaints were recorded. For example, notification of a missed bin collection was the reporting of an issue with an opportunity to rectify that issue, rather than a complaint. As an example of this, Councillor Wilson referred to Stage 1 by Service Area information for his Portfolio responsibility within Waste Management where Stage 1 numbers were high but had been remedied by Stage 2 as they were easily resolved once the issue had been raised and staff on the ground given an opportunity to deal with the issues raised these were queries rather than complaints.

The Leader said there were often issues raised after the Christmas period due to the amount of waste that had to be collected but often the issue raised was more for reassurance of when waste would be collected, rather than a complaint that it had not been collected. The Leader further said that following on from the report, it would be beneficial to have a review of the Complaints and Compliments Process in order to understand whether matters were being raised as issues or complaints. There was ongoing work regarding digitisation of systems to be able to provide a better service to residents also.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 be noted.

(2) T H A T there be a review of the Complaints and Compliments Process to be brought back to Cabinet in due course for further consideration.

Reasons for decisions

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

C263 Q2 UPDATE: AUDIT WALES WORK PROGRAMME 2024 - VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (REF) –

The reference from Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 was presented.

Governance and Audit Committee had reviewed the information within the report, had noted the progress and referred the report to Cabinet for oversight.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Governance and Audit Committee held on 6th January, 2025 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C264 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING MID-YEAR SUMMARY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024 (REF) –

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 6th January, 2025 was presented.

Councillor Birch said there had been a thorough discussion by the Committee of the safeguarding training for school governors which the Committee felt should be mandatory for all school governors. Councillor Birch also hoped that all Councillors would undertake the training as Members met vulnerable people within the course of their roles. Committee felt that all school governors should undertake the training in order to be fully aware of reporting mechanisms and actions to be taken in light of children making disclosures.

Councillor Williams said that training of that nature was an important feature of Councillor responsibility and Members were also kept up to date with matters at the Safeguarding Board .

The Leader said that people working within public services needed to be aware of such issues as part of their responsibilities in order to provide support for people without putting individuals at risk. Councillor Burnett also asked to be updated as part of a future safeguarding report about the numbers that had taken the training.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 6th January, 2025 be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C265 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 14th January, 2025 was presented.

In terms of the Committee's recommendations, the Leader said that several were for Cabinet to note as they had been noted by Committee themselves or were Committee responsibilities.

Recommendation (4) from the Committee requested more information from Cabinet about the strategic priorities and resources to be focused in relation to funding available in reserves and projects awarded funding to date going which the Leader said was part of the Corporate Plan and Service Plans going forward.

Recommendation (8) recommended to Cabinet that the report be distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information. The Leader was not aware if Committee themselves would have actioned that matter as it would be within the control of the Committee themselves. All elected Members would have been advised of the relevant meeting agendas when papers were published so would already have had sight of the papers and asked for clarification as to whether the information had already been sent to of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 14th January, 2025 be noted.

(2) T H A T the report be distributed to members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information if it had not already been circulated.

Reasons for decisions

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

C266 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (REF) –

The reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 15th January, 2025 was presented.

The Leader said there were conversations concerning procurement and the important part that could play when considering Project Zero and that the Wales

Centre for Public Policy had participated in conversations concerning the Carbon Management Plan.

Recommendation (7) from the Committee referred the Committee's comments to Cabinet. Committee requested that any future Carbon Management Plan and Project Zero reports be presented to the Committee alongside each other and that a discussion took place in the future with Committee Members as to how to present progress against targets which was a matter for the Committee. The matters concerning RAG status, Flood Management plans and surface water issues were also matters for the Democratic Services Officer to raise with the Committee Chair.

Similarly to the matter at Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Recommendation (8) which recommended to Cabinet that the report be distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information. The Leader was not aware if Committee themselves would have actioned that matter as it would be within the control of the Committee themselves. All elected Members would have been advised of the relevant meeting agendas when the papers were published so would have already had sight of the papers and asked for clarification as to whether the information had already been sent to of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 15th January, 2025 be noted.

(2) T H A T matters captured in the comments of the Committee be referred to the Democratic Services officer to raise with the Committee Chair as matters for their own Committee's work programme.

(3) T H A T the report be distributed to members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information if it had not already been circulated.

Reasons for decisions

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

C267 USE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S EMERGENCY POWERS (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to notify Cabinet of the exercising of Emergency Powers by the Chief Executive since the last report on 05th December, 2024.

Councillor Williams said that many of the matters in the report had to be in place to meet certain timescales in terms of grant funding with a tremendous amount of work undertaken by Officers for matters that often required immediate action.

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.

Reason for decision

To inform Cabinet.

C268 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to consider a draft timetable of meetings for the period May 2025 to May 2026.

Councillor Burnett advised that there may need to be some amendments to the timetable as a result of considerations in relation to the new Corporate Plan regarding Scrutiny Committees in order to best meet the needs of delivering the new Corporate Plan and as such would be amended subject to any future changes and also in arrangements for meetings deemed appropriate by the Mayor of the Council or the relevant Committee/Meeting Chair.

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 timetable of meetings for May 2025 - May 2026, as set out in Appendix A to the Report be approved, subject to any future changes in arrangements for meetings deemed appropriate by the Mayor of the Council or the relevant Committee/Meeting Chair.

Reason for decision

To approve / publish a calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal year.

C269 ANNUAL REPORT FOR SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) / SAC (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL) (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to ratify the Annual Report 23-24 for SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council).

Councillor Williams thanked the Officers connected to the various groups, in particular Donna Graves, the CSCJES Associate Adviser for RE/RS/RVE and SACRE/SAC and Francesca Wright, the Senior Governor Support Officer and SACRE/SAC Clerk, for their expertise and support for all the groups that they support. Councillor Williams also looked forward to the matter being considered by the Learning and Culture 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 attached Annual Report for SACRE/SAC (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council) at Appendix 1 be approved for ratification and publication.

(2) T H A T the report and the appendices be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration with any recommendations referred back to Cabinet for consideration. Should Committee make no recommendations, the matter would be considered as agreed.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that a ratified Annual Report for SACRE/SAC was published in accordance with the Terms of Reference (Revised Constitution of SACRE/SAC for RVE) and requirement to publish an Annual Report on its work.

(2) To ensure that Members of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had an opportunity to consider the activities and progress made by SACRE/SAC in supporting education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

C270 ANNUAL EQUALITIES MONITORING REPORT 2023-2024 (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek approval of the Annual Equality Monitoring Report (Appendix A) which considered the actions undertaken by the Council in supporting everyone living and working in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Sivagnanam highlighted some of the work undertaken by the Council, including the Community for Work teams based in the Learning and Schools Directorate, the Quickstart and Strive projects, developing an inclusive workplace and Disability Network for staff and the work done by Her Voice Wales.

Councillor Williams said there were so many good examples of how the Authority was working to improve equalities, in particular the anti-racism agenda.

The Leader said there was a statutory perspective to the report but emphasised that whoever an individual may be and whatever challenges were being faced, people were important and valued by 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 Annual Equality Monitoring Report 2023-2024 be approved as described in the body of the report and at Appendix A.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and that any recommendations be referred back to Cabinet for consideration and inclusion in the final version of the Annual Equality Monitoring Report.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allow the Council to meet its reporting duty under the specific duties for Wales and continue to make progress towards meeting the public sector equality duty whilst ensuring equality work was available for scrutiny by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and others.
- (2) To enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider the report and to enable publication by 31st March to meet statutory duties.