

## **CABINET**

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

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

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

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

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

### **C289 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.

### **C290 MINUTES –**

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

### **C291 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Councillor Sivagnanam declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 15 concerning “Belle Vue Community Centre – Temporary Continuation of Management Arrangements” as the Chair of the Pavillion and advised she would leave the Cabinet meeting for the item.

### **C292 ANNUAL EQUALITIES MONITORING REPORT 2023-2024 (REF) –**

The reference from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd March, 2025 was presented.

Councillor Sivagnanam said that there had been a good discussion at the Committee meeting who had forwarded comments to Cabinet for consideration a specific section covering Mental Health and that equalities Information in relation to recruitment and the use of agency staff could be included as part of the monitoring process.

RESOLVED – T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd March, 2025 be noted and would be taken into consideration when determining the Monitoring Report for the following year.

Reason for decision

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

**C293 LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES AT COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE SITES (REF) –**

The reference from Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 11th March, 2025 was presented.

The Deputy Leader said there had been an in-depth discussion of the matter at the meeting, including concerns regarding the effect on wildlife, noise, safety and security. There were no specific recommendations for Cabinet to consider however the Committee did make comments for consideration prior to any final agreement with the relevant leisure operators.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) T H A T the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and the subsequent reference to Cabinet.
- (2) T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be noted and would be taken into consideration prior to any final agreement with the relevant leisure operator and on completion of all due diligence concerning the pilot.

Reason for decisions

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

**C294 CARDIFF BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –**

The minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 22nd January, 2025 were presented.

Councillor Wilson, who Chairs the Committee, said there had been interesting discussions at the meeting, including:

- the amount of debris cleared in January due to inclement weather;
- activity with schools concerning litter picking and the promotion of environmental awareness;
- the hosting of the international Annual Meeting of North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) would be held in Cardiff Bay later in the year;
- barrage and lock maintenance;
- an update from Natural Resources Wales discussing water oxygen levels, closure of the Barrage fish pass for winter maintenance, eel migration, recording of Salmonids and the Channel View Footbridge consultation.

Councillor Wilson advised Cabinet that on 1st April, 2025 it would be Cardiff Harbour Authority's 25th anniversary. Several events were planned to take place to mark the occasion and further details on those would be provided when available.

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee meeting held on 22nd January, 2025 be noted.

Reason for decision

In noting the minutes.

**C295 GRANTS TO CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report to seek Cabinet's approval to the awarding of grant funding to a range of charitable organisations as described in the report.

The Leader said that working with partners was so important in delivering vital services for those who needed them in the Vale of Glamorgan, which included support for Glamorgan Voluntary Services and Citizens Advice.

Councillor Wilson said that both organisations offered important community services to residents of the Vale of Glamorgan which also included free and low cost courses for organisations needing assistance with grant funding. Glamorgan Voluntary Services were also a valued member of the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and both had been beneficial partners to the Council for a long time.

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 a grant be awarded to Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) of £101,144 for 2025/26 in line with the Council's settlement from Welsh Government and for changes in funding for 2026/27 and 2027/28 to be in line with the settlements for those years (excluding additional funding resulting from the transfer of any new responsibilities) which were currently projected to be 1% in the Medium Term Financial Plan. Should the Council receive a negative settlement the funding would remain as per the previous year and increases would not exceed 5% in any one year.

(2) T H A T a grant be awarded to Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice of £157,335 in 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 with an additional payment of £30,000 for 2025/6 from the cost-of-living reserve.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and

Democratic Services and the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, to develop and agree Service Level Agreements with Glamorgan Voluntary Services and Citizens Advice.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To award monies to support Glamorgan Voluntary Services.
- (2) To award monies to support Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice.
- (3) To have appropriate service level agreements in place for the provision of services and support.

**C296 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026/27 (EAWL)  
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken on school admission arrangements for Community Schools in accordance with the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

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 other appendices included as part of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the School Admissions Policy at Appendix A be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that all relevant information was considered by Cabinet in reaching a decision on the proposed admission arrangements by 15th April, 2025.
- (2) The Council was required to review and consult on school admissions annually and to report on the outcome of the consultation and any proposals which arose from it.

**C297 FUTURE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (EAWL)  
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to provide Cabinet with a further update in respect of the future direction for school improvement services for Vale of Glamorgan schools (following the report to Cabinet on 28th November, 2024) and

sought Cabinet approval to the proposed operating model as detailed in the report with specific financial implications.

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 school improvement services would be delivered on a local basis.
- (2) T H A T the professional learning and curriculum support services would be delivered on a regional basis.
- (3) T H A T the governance arrangements for the proposed regional professional learning and curriculum support service should transfer to a collaboration arrangement between the five constituent Local Authorities across Central South Consortium (CSC).
- (4) T H A T the financial implications be noted.
- (5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Education and Inclusion Service to implement any revised school improvement service models.

Reason for decisions

(1-5) To ensure that Cabinet were apprised of the work underway in response to the national Middle Tier review and to ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council could respond to the outcomes of the review and meet the required deadlines for the transition to new arrangements as required by the Welsh Government.

**C298 PROCUREMENT OF ENGINEERING CALL-OFF CONTRACT FOR DIRECT LABOUR AND PLANT 2025-2027 (NBS) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to obtain the approval to procure and agree award of the Call-off Contract for Direct Labour and Plant 2025-27.

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 procurement of the Direct Labour and Plant Call-Off Contract 2025 – 2027 via the Sell2Wales portal be approved, for the provision of direct labour for future Highway schemes as referred to in the report.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, to award the contract(s) to the most economically advantageous tenderer and to extend the contract(s) in accordance with the contract terms.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Service to draft and execute the contract(s) for the award of the Direct Labour and Plant Call-Off Contract 2025 – 2027.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, to extend the existing Direct Labour and Plant Call-off Contract 2022-24 for up to an additional 6 months from 1st April, 2025 at the tendered rates, in order to facilitate the tender process, standstill period, evaluation and award of the Direct Labour and Plant Call-off Contract(s) 2025-27, to ensure no business or delivery continuity is lost.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure compliance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

(2) To deal efficiently and promptly with the award and management of the contract following the procurement process.

(3) To ensure that the necessary legal documentation was in place for the contract.

(4) To ensure business continuity and delivery of ongoing capital financed construction projects until the new Contract was awarded and in place.

#### **C299 2025 UPDATE TO THE HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2025 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to inform Cabinet of the updated Housing Support Grant priorities and sought approval for 2025-2026 Housing Support Grant spend plan.

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 2025 Update to Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022-2025 be approved.

(2) T H A T the Housing Support Grant Spend Plan 2025-2026 be approved for submission to Welsh Government.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that the Council complied with the requirements of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Guidance (Wales) April 2021.

(2) To ensure that the HSG Spend Plan 2025-2026 was submitted to Welsh Government in accordance with the Housing Support Grant (HSG) conditions.

**C300 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – APPROPRIATION OF CADOXTON HOUSE TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CONVERSION INTO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to inform Cabinet of a proposal to appropriate the vacant Cadoxton House to the Housing Revenue Account from the General Fund (Housing) and convert into 13 units of much needed temporary accommodation.

Councillor Perkes said that the Vale of Glamorgan Council was always looking for extra temporary accommodation in order to support residents in need in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Leader said that as well as providing temporary accommodation that the Council also provided support for people to go on to become sustainable tenants over the longer term.

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 Strategic Insight Board's decision confirming Cadoxton House surplus to requirements having regard to its previous use be approved.

(2) T H A T approval be granted to appropriate the vacant Cadoxton House from the General Fund (Housing) to the Housing Revenue Account for the agreed value of £275,000 for the purposes of conversion to temporary accommodation.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement and the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer, to agree and manage all matters relating to the appointment of a construction management company and required subcontractors, to undertake the conversion of Cadoxton House.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree, prepare, execute and complete as necessary all agreements and contract documentation, relating to the appointment of a construction management company and required subcontractors, to undertake the conversion of Cadoxton House.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree, prepare, execute and complete as necessary all statutory agreements associated with the conversion of Cadoxton House.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow Cadoxton House to be appropriated from the General Fund (Housing) to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

(2) To comply with the requirements of the Section 122 of Local Government Act 1972 and to allow the formal appropriation of the General Fund (Housing) asset for housing purposes.

(3) To address all matters relating to the appointment of resources to undertake the conversion of Cadoxton House.

(4) To permit the appointment of a construction management company and required sub-contractors undertake the conversion of Cadoxton House.

(5) To obtain the statutory agreements required to convert Cadoxton House.

#### **C301 RENEWAL OF THE FLYING START COMMISSIONED CHILDCARE CONTRACTS (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek authority to renew the childcare contracts for Flying Start commissioned childcare providers and network childminders. Councillor Williams said that the proposal continued the provision already in place and requested authority to extend the contract and the childcare offer.

Councillor Birch said it was so important for children to have early provision outside of the home as longitudinal studies had shown that children with such provision were better able to access education and enabled earlier identification of additional learning needs.

Councillor Sivagnanam said it was essential that children had the best start in life and such provision created fairer communities and would give children the best start in life.

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 Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to renew the childcare contracts for Gibbonsdown Children’s Centre, Dechrau Dysgu and the Flying Start network childminders.

(2) T H A T the Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to award the contract(s) for the service for an initial period of two years with an option to extend for up to a further two years, following the completion of the tender process.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete and execute a contract with the childcare and childminding providers.

(4) T H A T use of the urgency procedure set out at Section 15.14 of the Council’s Constitution be granted in order that contracts commenced in April 2025.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the Directorate to continue to deliver high quality childcare within the Vale of Glamorgan, in a cost-effective way that met the requirements of Welsh Government Flying Start Guidance and the required standards of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

(2) To ensure the service was in place for the next two years with the potential to extend it for a further two years if required.

(3) To ensure the appropriate authority and documentation were in place to renew the contracts.

(4) To ensure that contracts could begin from the start of April 2025.

**C302 STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2025 – 2029 (CEERS) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval of updated Strategic Equality Plan for the period 2025 – 29.

Councillor Sivagnanam said that the actions had both an internal and external focus as well as working to reduce inequalities experienced by Vale of Glamorgan residents and support delivery the Council’s Vale 2030 corporate objectives for the next four years.

As part of the consultation process it was recognised that some of the traditional means of gathering the views of those affected by inequality were no longer working and the report called for a review of the Equalities Consultative Forum as well as the mechanism for engaging with key stakeholders.

The Leader said it was important to look at the Vale of Glamorgan, its residents and their needs and understand those needs in order to provide the services that were required.

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 revised Strategic Equality Plan 2025 – 2029 (contained in Appendix A to the report) be approved and the equality impact assessment (Appendix B to the report) be noted.
- (2) T H A T a review of the Equalities Consultative Forum be completed and reported to Cabinet with recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of the Council's mechanisms for engaging with those with protected characteristics and the voluntary and advocacy groups representing them.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the Council had reviewed and had in place a Strategic Equality Plan for 2025 – 2029 with equality objectives that reflected the work being undertaken across the Council to improve equality and fairness in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (2) To ensure that the Council's engagement mechanisms continued to develop in line with the ambitions of Vale 2023 and the Public Participation Strategy.

#### **C303 BELLE VUE COMMUNITY CENTRE – TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LSW) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –**

Councillor Sivagnanam, having declared an interest in the report, left the meeting during the discussion.

The Cabinet Member presented the report to extend the interim management arrangements at Belle Vue Community Centre prior to consideration by Cabinet of longer term management options, including a stage 2 Community Asset Transfer application.

The Leader said that the Centre had excellent disabled facilities and it was important to work with the community and interested parties over the next year to find the right partner for the community centre.

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 present management arrangements for the Community Centre be extended until Cabinet had considered longer term management options, including a received Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer proposal.

(2) T H A T the Director of Environment and Housing be authorised to extend the current Licence and Management Agreement with Big Fresh Catering Company (BFCC) for a further 12 months, subject to National Lottery consent, with break clauses at months three, six, and nine, to allow time for the future management of the Community Centre to be determined and, if required, to allow for a handover period.

(3) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to liaise with the National Lottery to obtain the necessary consent required for the extension agreements.

(4) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to draft, complete and execute all necessary paperwork to affect the completion of the extension agreements with BFCC.

(5) T H A T use of the urgency procedure set out at Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be granted in respect of Resolutions (1) and (2) above.

(6) T H A T a further report be provided to Cabinet within the next 12 months detailing options for the long-term management of the Centre.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To allow the Community Centre to continue to operate whilst the Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer was considered.

(2) To allow sufficient time for the future management of the Community Centre to be agreed.

(3) To allow for National Lottery consent to be obtained.

(4) To allow for all necessary legal paperwork to be completed.

(5) To ensure continuity of service could be maintained until the future of the Community Centre was determined.

(6) To agree the long-term management arrangements for the Centre.