

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 5TH DECEMBER, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

“C63 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021/22 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – ALL) –

The Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report (Appendix A) drew on a wide range of information sources to assess the progress made by the Council in meeting its Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2021/22 as aligned to the Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives. The findings would enable the Council to identify how to further enhance internal processes and use of resources to improve and support achievement of the Annual Delivery Plan commitments and Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The Annual Self-Assessment report was a new requirement for Welsh Local Authorities under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, which required the Council to keep performance under review, consult on and then publish a report setting out the conclusions of its self-assessment once in respect of every financial year.

Overall, based on the review of last year’s performance, it was believed that on balance the Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2021/22 had been met, in what continued to be a challenging year for the Council. The conclusion would be reviewed to reflect the findings from consultation work with citizens, partners, Council staff and other key statutory consultees following conclusion of engagement activities at the end of September.

A programme of engagement activities was currently underway during August-September 2022, targeting local people and businesses, Council staff and other key stakeholders via an online survey, various social media communications, as well as attendance at a number of public events across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Draft Self-Assessment report would also be widely circulated with a request for comments from key partners including the recognised Trade Unions.

As part of the engagement work, elected Members via Scrutiny Committees would be consulted on the draft report with their views informing the final Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report. Governance and Audit Committee have a specific role set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, in contributing to the Annual Self-Assessment report and a draft must be provided to the Committee to review with the Council responding to any recommendations for changes to the conclusions or actions that it intends to take.

The findings from the consultation work would be reflected within the final Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report which would be subject to further scrutiny by Governance and Audit Committee and Cabinet prior to being presented for endorsement by Full Council in November.

The final Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report would be used to inform the Council's Annual delivery Plan for 2023/24 and associated Service Plans for the same period.

The Leader proposed two minor amendments to the detail within the Executive Summary, changing bullet point 1 on Page 2 of the Report, changing 'engagement activities at the end of September' to 'engagement activities at the end of September/early October' and bullet point 2 on Page 2 of the Report, changing 'engagement activities is currently underway during August-September' to 'engagement activities is currently underway during August-October', which were agreed.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the issues in the report concerning Climate Emergency and the ongoing work on Project Zero, the cost of living crisis and rising inflation and the importance of including local communities and providing help and support where possible.

The Leader said it was important to remember what had been achieved recently, including the delivery of five new schools last year with three more new schools currently under development and due for completion in 2023. It was important to take account of the hugely challenging financial issues experienced by the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and the Council itself, but that the Council would continue to be ambitious whilst prioritising the well-being of the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

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 Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self Assessment report 2021/22 (Appendix A) as the basis for consultation as described in this report and Recommendation Two be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2021/22 be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee and all Scrutiny Committees for their consideration as part of a programme of consultation, with any views and recommendations for changes to the judgements or proposed actions (areas for future focus) being referred back to Cabinet for their consideration prior to the final Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report being considered by Governance and Audit Committee and presented for endorsement by Full Council.

(3) T H A T the use of paragraph 15.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised to allow the Draft Vale of

Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment 2021/22 to be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting taking place on 13th September, 2022 for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that consultation was undertaken on the findings of the Council's Annual Self-Assessment in line with requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

(2) To ensure all Scrutiny Committees and the Governance and Audit Committee (as per section 114 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021) have oversight of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2021/22 and their views inform the Council's approach to meeting the new performance requirements.

(3) In order that the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment 2021/22 can be referred to the next meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to enable their consideration during the timetable for consultation."