

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 5th February, 2020.

Present: Councillor M.R. Wilson (Chairman); Councillor O. Griffiths (Vice-Chairman); Councillors G.D.D. Carroll, G.A. Cox, R. Crowley, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, Dr. I.J. Johnson and Ms. S. Sivagnanam.

Also present: Councillor N. Moore (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) and Councillor P.G. King (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport).

651 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.W. Thomas

652 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

653 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following Members declared interests as below:

Councillor	Declaration
G.A. Cox	Agenda item 4 being a school Governor of Cowbridge Comprehensive school and Y Bont Faen Primary having an exemption under the Members' Code.
R. Crowley	Agenda items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services Programme and in respect of family members being employed by the Vale.
V.P. Driscoll	Agenda Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services.
G. John	Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services.
Dr. I.J. Johnson	Agenda Items 6, 7, 9 and 10 Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services.

M.R. Wilson	Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services.
N. Moore	Agenda items 5, 6 and 9 Dispensation from Standards Committee to speak and vote in respect of matters relating to Reshaping Services and schools.

654 WITHDRAWAL OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDING FOR FARE PAYING SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES (WHICH DO NOT CATER FOR PUPILS WHO QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL TRANSPORT) (REF) –

Cabinet, on 16th December, 2019, had referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The report advised of the results of the Consultation undertaken on Fare Paying School Transport services between 2nd April, 2019 and 28th May, 2019. The consultation outlined the proposed withdrawal of funding for fare paying school bus services, which were currently provided at the discretion of the Council.

After due consideration of the consultation responses received, the report sought Cabinet approval for the withdrawal of funding of Council supported fare paying school bus services with effect from 1st September, 2020. This would assist in meeting the savings that the Neighbourhood Services and Transport Department was expected to make and help to support the Council in funding statutory free school transport for pupils who qualified by virtue of distance from school and availability of walking routes.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the report had no implications with regard to the provision of free home to school transport for entitled children, which would be maintained as existing. Furthermore, the officer wished to highlight that the current provision of fare paying school transport was not consistently available across the Vale of Glamorgan and it was therefore not offered to all pupils within the Authority.

The report outlined which services and schools could be affected by the withdrawal of funding for fare paying school transport and the current average numbers of fare paying pupils only using those services as below:

			AM	PM
P97	Peyton Travel	Llansannor CiW	1	1
P122	Peyton Travel	Llangan Primary	0	0
P125	Watts	Ysgol St. Curig / St. Baruc	10	15
P132	Creigiau	Ysgol Pen y Garth	18	18
P133	Peyton Travel	St. Josephs	0	10
P138	Watts	St. Illtyd		
P139	Creigiau	Ysgol Pen y Garth	21	25
351	Peyton Travel	St. Athan Primary	45	45
S2	Watts	Pencoedtre High / Whitmore High / Ysgol Bro Morgannwg	37	30
S10	Watts	Pencoedtre High	57	55

S14	Watts	Pencoedtre High / Whitmore High / Ysgol Bro Morgannwg	29	42
S40	Peyton Travel	Llantwit Major Comprehensive	5	5
S49	Watts	St. Richard Gwyn	44	44

The officer noted, however, that some of these services may remain in place should commercial operators decide it viable to continue services without subsidy from the Local Authority.

The officer then advised Committee that the budget for this service currently stood at approximately £242k and that she anticipated that a saving of approximately £165k could be achieved , with the remaining funds to be transferred into the Education Transport budget in order to provide transport for pupils who qualified for free school transport and who had been allocated to fare paying services.

A Committee Member remarked that in his view, the consultation undertaken had not been thorough enough and that another round of clarification would be necessary to ensure full awareness of what would happen to pupils affected by the proposal. The Member also queried why the saving of £165k had not been highlighted in the report regarding the revenue budget, to be discussed subsequently on the same agenda. The Committee Member further remarked that he had particular concerns in relation to equality issues which could arise for pupils living in rural communities and attending Welsh medium schools as these pupils often had to travel further outside their local communities to attend their nearest appropriate school. The Council therefore needed to ensure it was not making it more difficult for pupils to attend Welsh medium schools and prioritise the identification of safe Active Travel routes between communities in the Vale of Glamorgan.

With regard to the Committee Member's concerns in relation to the thoroughness of the consultation undertaken, the officer responded that each school that could potentially be affected by the proposal had been consulted and that the consultation survey issued to the public had been widely publicised. With regard to the Committee Member's query in relation to the inclusion of the anticipated saving of £165k in the revenue budget report, the officer replied that this saving had been part of the service area's budget for the preceding financial year and had therefore not been included in the report currently under discussion.

The officer then addressed the Committee Member's concerns regarding equalities issues that could potentially arise from the proposal by advising that the fare paying school transport services currently provided by the Local Authority were distributed randomly across the Vale of Glamorgan and only provided for some communities and not others. This could be interpreted as discriminatory. Moreover, the officer stated that it was often the case that pupils who travelled outside of their local community to attend specific schools were doing so as a result of a parental preference for the school in question. The officer continued by advising that with regard to the identification of safe Active Travel routes between communities and schools, officers had walked proposed routes and had assessed them according to Welsh Government guidance. The officer also noted, however, that if parents of pupils who were living less than the statutory 2 or 3 miles away from their chosen

school (and therefore did not qualify for free home to school transport) did not feel that the Active Travel route identified by the Local Authority was safe, they could apply to the Local Authority for the provision of free home to school transport. The officer then reminded Committee Members that if routes were considered to be commercially viable, operators may opt to continue to run some of the services that would be affected by the proposal.

The Committee Member considered that in advance of Cabinet's decision on this proposal, he believed further work on the identification of safe Active Travel routes would need to be undertaken. He also highlighted that for many pupils attending Welsh medium schools, attending their nearest catchment school often required them to travel outside of their local communities, rather than it being a matter of parental preference. The officer in response stated that that any parents concerned about the safety of Active Travel routes between their communities and children's schools could apply for free home to school transport but they would need to approach the Local Authority in the first instance. She also noted that parents, through the consultation process, had been advised that the service could potentially be withdrawn.

In highlighting to the officer that Ysgol Sant Baruc would be relocating from its current site, the Member asked whether this had been accounted for by the proposal, to which the officer confirmed that the matter would be looked at collaboratively with the Education team.

Another Member queried why the report referred to figures in terms of what the Local Authority "could" save, to which the officer replied that figures outlined in the report were estimates and could vary due to fluctuations in prices the report provided the current likely figure.

In referring to the revenue budget report to be discussed subsequently on the same agenda, a Member sought clarification as to why a figure of £135k of the Neighbourhood and Transport Services' budget had been ringfenced for education transport given the proposal under discussion, to which the officer responded that this figure had been allocated to ensure that no further changes would take place to provision, for instance with regards to the provision of transport to pupils in Post 16 education.

Another Member raised concerns regarding a safe walking route identified within his own Ward between Ystradowen and Llansannor Primary School, and stated that given the increased amount of traffic in the area since the route had been identified as safe, it was felt locally that the route was no longer safe and he therefore requested of the officer that this route be assessed for a second time, to which the officer responded that she could request that this take place.

The Chairman remarked that he had concerns regarding the proposal's potential impact on climate change, and whilst he acknowledged that the intention of the proposal was to encourage Active Travel to schools he feared that the actual unintended consequence of the proposal could be that there would be an increased number of pupils being transported to school via car. He therefore asked the officer if it would be possible to look at greater publicisation of the safe Active Travel routes

to schools, although he did acknowledge that this posed some difficulty to the Local Authority as it was not possible for the publicised routes to account for every location in which Vale of Glamorgan residents lived. The Chairman also suggested that if parents whose children did not qualify for free home to school transport wanted to apply for the route to be assessed due to a perceived lack of safety of their Active Travel route to school, also that the criteria for this should be publicised more widely.

Having regard to the Chairman's concerns, the officer confirmed that the proposal would aim to encourage Active Travel between home and the school and for parents and children to reassess how they were travelling, and also suggested that the reduction in the number of buses on the roads that could occur as a result of the proposal might have a positive impact on issues arising from climate change.

In responding to the query regarding the publicising of the criteria for parents who wished to apply for free home to school transport due to unsafe Active Travel routes, the officer advised that guidance in relation to this had been issued by Welsh Government and could easily be accessed <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/Active-Travel.aspx> and it had also been included in an education booklet distributed to parents. Furthermore the Local Authority would also offer advice if approached by parents.

Having considered the report and there being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Committee's comments regarding the proposal and consultation be forwarded to Cabinet as below:

- The position regarding the anticipated savings to be made by the proposal and this year's revenue budget could have been made clearer within the report;
- The proposal risked discriminating against pupils from rural areas and those attending Welsh medium schools, due to their need to often travel further outside their local communities to attend school;
- A second assessment of the safety of the Active Travel route between Ystadowen and Llansannor Primary School be undertaken;
- Committee Members had concerns regarding the proposal's impact on climate change due to the potential of an increase in the number of cars on the road following the withdrawal of bus services, although acknowledged that the proposal did aim to encourage Active Travel between home and school;
- Information regarding the safe Active Travel routes between home and school should be more widely publicised
- The criteria applied in instances wherein parents wished to apply for free home to school transport due to a perceived lack of safety of identified Active Travel routes be more widely publicised.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the views of the Committee are considered prior to a final decision being taken by Cabinet on the future of fare paying school transport services.

655 PAY POLICY 2020/2021 (REF) –

Prior to consideration of the report all senior officers left the room, with the exception of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Operational Manager for Employee Services, who remained to answer any initial technical questions, to leave the room during the item.

The Council had a statutory requirement under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to prepare a Pay Policy Statement and the proposed Pay Policy Statement for the new financial year 2020/21 was attached as an Appendix to the report. The Statement needed to be approved and published by 31st March, 2020. The document provided a framework for ensuring that employees were rewarded fairly and objectively, in accordance with the service needs of the Council and that there was openness and transparency in relation to the process. Cabinet had referred the report to the Committee for consideration prior to final consideration and approval by Full Council on 26th February, 2020.

The Pay Policy had been incrementally developed since 2012 to incorporate the following:

- Guidance from Welsh Government as contained in the document “Pay Accountabilities in Local Government in Wales” as updated January 2016;
- Changes as prescribed by the Local Authorities Standing Orders (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which took effect from 1st July, 2014;
- Changes as prescribed by the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that any proposed changes to the salary of Chief Officers (as defined in the Localism Act 2011) were made following consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales;
- Necessary refinements as a result of changes to the Council’s senior management structure over recent years;
- The effects of national and locally negotiated pay and associated benefit awards along with the provisions of the National Living Wage.

At the request of the Chairman, supplementary information had been provided to the Committee and included in the agenda which outlined the number of staff in each pay grade according to gender as at January 2020.

Grade	Female		Male		Grand Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
APPRENTICE	17	74%	6	26%	23
Grade 1	294	89%	36	11%	330
Grade 2	294	85%	51	15%	345
Grade 3	161	70%	70	30%	231
Grade 4	424	76%	132	24%	556

Grade 5	584	85%	103	15%	687
Grade 6	367	76%	116	24%	483
Grade 7	130	64%	73	36%	203
Grade 8	127	59%	88	41%	215
Grade 9	183	71%	73	29%	256
Grade 10	51	65%	27	35%	78
Grade 11	47	64%	27	36%	74
Chief Officer	24	50%	24	50%	48
Grand Total	2,703	77%	826	23%	3,529

In referring to the report a Committee Member asked for clarification regarding the reference to non-consolidated increments within the pay ranges for Heads of Service and Directors as outlined in section 6.13 of Appendix A to the report, noting that these were cited as being based on performance and asking how this was measured and whether there was a clear set of criteria in place for the awarding of these increments. The Operational Manager for Employee Services responded by advising that the awarding of non-consolidated increments was decided by assessments carried out at performance reviews and that officers who had reached increment 3 within their pay range, if marked as “good” or “excellent” at performance review, would then move up to increment 4 which was non-consolidated, however prior to moving up again to increment 5, they would be taken back down to increment 3. The Member then sought further clarification as to whether the non-consolidated increments were awarded as a matter of course and whether there were any members of staff who were eligible and had not been awarded the increase in increment. The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development responded that while there were no employees who were eligible and had not been awarded the non-consolidated increments at present, her service area was continually ensuring that the process relating to this remained robust.

A Member then raised concerns regarding the gender pay gap as indicated by the data contained in the supplementary information provided, to which the Operational Manager for Employee Services agreed that this should be looked at, however he also noted that this gap had been reduced since the introduction of the new pay structure. The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development wished to further clarify that the gender pay gap had reduced from 8.36% to 4.57% between 2017 and 2019, however she acknowledged that this issue was something that the Council needed to further work on.

The Committee Member then asked for clarification regarding the reference to the multiple between the median (average) full time equivalent pay and that of the Managing Director contained at Appendix A to the report and the statement that the Council would review this data annually and seek to benchmark this information as appropriate, asking for further information about what the benchmarking process looked like. The Operational Manager for Employee Services responded that in order to benchmark, the Pay Policies of other Local Authorities were looked at and considered.

A Committee Member then asked whether there were safeguards in place to ensure the Vale of Glamorgan did not face the same issues that had been encountered by Caerphilly County Borough Council in relation to the pay grades of senior officers, to which the Leader responded that the issues in question had arisen as a result of a self-appointed salary scale at the Local Authority in question, which he assured Committee Members did not take place at the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Chairman remarked that he was happy to support the Pay Policy, but expressed the view that more rigorous benchmarking was required. He highlighted that a reduction to the gender pay gap in particular should be prioritised and that the Local Authority should be aiming for this to be equal at all levels, noting that it was of particular concern that people might be taking breaks in their career and finding themselves unable to move upwards upon returning to work. The Chairman therefore suggested that reports regarding the benchmarking of both the median pay and that of the Chief Officer and the gender pay gap be prepared and tabled for discussion at future Scrutiny Committee meetings.

Having considered the report and there being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet endorsement of the Pay Policy be approved with the Committee noting that the report was to be presented to Full Council for final consideration and approval on 26th February, 2020.

(2) T H A T the comments of the Committee as below be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration:

- more clarity should be provided regarding how performance based assessments were carried out for members of staff eligible for non-consolidated increments within their pay ranges;
- further benchmarking be undertaken in relation to Chief Officer and Senior Officer salaries ;
- the Council should continue to reduce the gender pay gap with the aim for all scale levels to have equal representation

(3) T H A T further reports as outlined in Recommendation (2) above be presented for discussion at future Scrutiny Committee meetings.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) In view of the contents of the report.

(2) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the views of the Committee ahead of the reports final consideration and approval by Full Council.

(3) To provide Committee Members with further information for further discussion in relation to such matters.

656 FINAL PROPOSALS FOR THE REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 (REF) –

The Section 151 Officer / Head of Finance presented the reference from Cabinet of 3rd February (which was tabled at the meeting), together with the report and its appendices (as included on the agenda) which set out final proposals in respect of the final revenue budget for the financial year 2020/21, for the consideration of Committee Members, before referring any comments to Cabinet ahead of recommendations being made to Council.

The officer began by stating that the provisional settlement from Welsh Government (WG), when considering adjustments, was an increase of £6.626m (4.29%) from the previous year. The final settlement was not due to be received until 25th February, 2020. The officer then highlighted that in setting the proposed budget for 2020/21, funding had been provided towards cost pressures, including the remainder of the cost pressure associated with the increase in employer's contributions into the Teachers' Pensions Fund. This was estimated to cost the Council £1.204m in 2020/21. The Council proposed to provide funding to schools to fully fund this pressure.

An efficiency target of £247k had been proposed for 2020/21 which the officer explained would cover all service areas and was at a level which was significantly lower than the targets that had to be set in previous years. It had become increasingly difficult for services to deliver further savings without reducing service provision following £59m of savings which had been achieved in the last 10 years. It was considered that the target set for 2020/21 was of a level that could be achieved by services.

In order to deliver these budget proposals, the Head of Service remarked that it would be necessary to use £1m from the Council Fund reserve in 2020/21, as previously approved as part of the 2019/20 budget proposals. Although this was not ideal as it would move the financial pressure onto future years where higher levels of savings would need to be achieved, however it had been considered to be an appropriate approach.

It was proposed that the Band D Council Tax rate be set at £1,306.08 for 2020/21, which was an increase of 4.9% from the current year.

In light of no indication being received from WG for future years' settlements, it was considered prudent to assume that there may be a flatlined settlement going forward. If Council Tax continued to increase by 4.9% this could result in the possible total shortfall in funding for 2021/22 and 2022/23 of £10.596m. Whilst it had been possible to set efficiency targets at a lower level in 2020/21 this may not be the case going forward and in light of projected levels of shortfall in future years, services were requested to continue to plan ways of achieving further efficiencies which would be innovative and transformational with regard to service delivery.

The Council Fund provided cover for unforeseen expenditure whilst, in the short term, maintaining a working balance. Unforeseen expenditure could be substantial,

and several instances could occur in a year. The level of pressure on Directorates in 2019/20 had evidenced this with overspends being reported in three of the Directorates. Whilst there was no set requirement for the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve, the officer noted some commentators used 5% of the net budget as a guide. For the Vale of Glamorgan this was currently about £12m. However, in view of the prudent approach the Council took with regard to Specific Reserves, it was proposed that £10m should be the revised minimum level for this reserve.

A Committee Member stated that whilst he was pleased to hear that there had been an increase in the settlement the Local Authority was anticipating it would receive from WG for the financial year 2020/21, he was unimpressed by the proposal to increase Council Tax at a rate that was several times higher than that of inflation. He also noted that with regard to efficiency savings, the anticipated saving of £165k that the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport had outlined to Committee previously as part of the report 'Withdrawal of Discretionary Funding for Fare Paying School Transport Services' had not been included in the report and queried why this was the case. The officer replied that the saving that the Committee Member was referring to had been part of the budget for the preceding financial year and had therefore not been included in the report in question.

Another Committee Member noted that the report cited 5% of a Local Authority's net budget as the guideline minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve and asked the officer whether there was information available regarding what level other Local Authorities were setting for the same and other reserves, as it could provide useful context for Committee Members when considering such matters. The Chairman agreed that it would be a useful exercise to look at the reserves of other Local Authorities, and that it could provide some clarity as to why other Local Authorities were reported to have such high levels of reserves in comparison to those of the Vale of Glamorgan. The Chairman added that it would be necessary to use Council Tax to increase the Local Authority's Council Tax Base and mitigate the effects of the demographic time bomb that it was facing.

In response to the query as to why the level of reserve had been suggested at £10m, the Section 151 Officer advised that in view of the potential service area overspends as highlighted in another report on the same agenda, the current minimum level for the Council Fund of £7m was considered should be increased. The figure of £10m was therefore being proposed as an appropriate buffer for the Local Authority. In response to the query relating to the reserve levels set by other Local Authorities, the officer advised that the Wales Audit Office (WAO) had a few years previously published a report detailing Local Authority reserves in Wales which she offered to circulate to Committee Members for their information. The Head of Service advised that she could also approach the Welsh Local Government Association to ascertain if they had any more up to date information on this matter. The Chairman requested that this be carried out with a view to a report on the matter being tabled for discussion at a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.

A Member requested that the details at Appendix H with regard to the reserves held by the Authority should be highlighted when the report was discussed at Council.

Having considered the report and there being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T, having reviewed the Final Proposals for the Revenue Budget 2020/21, the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Wales Audit Office report as highlighted above in respect of Local Authority reserves in Wales be forwarded to all Members of the Committee for their information.
- (3) T H A T the Committee receives a report to a future meeting to provide the opportunity for further analysis and consideration of Local Authority reserves.
- (4) T H A T the details as outlined at Appendix H to the report be highlighted to Full Council when the report is to be presented.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) In view of the contents contained therein.
- (2&3) In order that the Committee receives further information regarding the reserve levels set by other Local Authorities and for further consideration to be undertaken.
- (4) In order that Cabinet consider the Scrutiny Committee's view before making a final proposal on the budget and for clarification purposes.

657 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21 AND FINAL CAPITAL PROPOSALS 2020/21 TO 2024/25 (REF) –

The Section 151 Officer / Head of Finance presented the report which detailed the Council's Capital Strategy for 2020/21 and Final Capital Proposals 2020/21 to 2024/25. The Capital Strategy, attached at Appendix A, provided a framework which outlined how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of corporate objectives, along with an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

The report set out the Council's proposed Final Capital Programme for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 at Appendix 2, and the officer began by noting that the total value of capital schemes over the next five years was £286.295m. This included £117.863m for the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme and £115.373m for the Housing Improvement Programme.

The Head of Service continued by stating that additional grant funding for three years, commencing 2018/19, had been provided by Welsh Government (WG) as part of the Public Highways Refurbishment grant and together with Council funding, this would provide £1.714m for investment in highways during 2020/21. WG had provided additional capital funding for schools' maintenance via a grant of £1.905m

for 2019/20 which was due for payment to the Council during January 2020. This sum could be carried forward into the next financial year through reserves. It was proposed that as it was very late in the budget setting process, the additional funding for 2019/20 was transferred into a specific reserve for further consideration in the new financial year.

A Committee Member asked for clarification on two points, the first being why had the WelTAG Study 3, relating to the Dinas Powys Transport Network, not been included in the report. The second being whether a plan was in place for Band C of the 21st Century Schools Programme, and when funds would be forthcoming.

The Leader, in response, advised that funding for Stage 3 of the WelTAG could not be secured until the current stage had reached its conclusion. With regard to plans under Band C, the Section 151 Officer advised that Band B had been a five year Programme when first announced, and that the Vale of Glamorgan was currently on track to have completed its Band B projects before the end of the Programme's fourth year. As detailed information in relation to Band C funding was not yet fully available, although some initial planning regarding expenditure had been carried out, it was difficult to report in detail at present.

Another Committee Member raised a query in relation to Decarbonisation, in particular the proposal set out within the report to purchase 10 electric pool cars and asked whether it was the Local Authority's intention for these to be an addition to the existing diesel pool cars, as this did not seem to fit logically with a long term decarbonisation strategy. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport clarified that the diesel cars were due to be replaced and although initially the electronic cars would be an addition in the first instance, they would eventually replace the current stock of pool cars.

Having considered the report and there being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Capital Strategy 2020/21 and Final Capital Proposals 2020/21 to 2024/25 detailed within the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and there being no significant comments raised by Members.

658 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2020-25 (REF) –

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation commenced by outlining that the Council had developed the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25, following the consultation undertaken on the draft between October and December 2019 and the changes made in response to the feedback received.

The officer reported that the Corporate Plan was the Council's key strategic document and that it set out how the Council's vision of Strong Communities with a Bright Future would be delivered over a five year period. In developing the Corporate Plan 2020-25, included at Appendix A to the report, the officer advised that the Council had undertaken extensive engagement and had considered a range of information and data. This included:

- The Public Opinion Survey
- Big Conversation with Staff
- Performance data
- Key Population data for the Vale
- Consideration by Scrutiny Committees
- Partnership activities and priorities
- Stakeholder workshop
- Discussions with the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum
- Corporate Risks
- Budget consultation
- Discussions at Community Liaison Committee and Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

The approach to developing the Corporate Plan 2020-25 had taken into account the diverse needs of the population including people of different ages, rural and urban communities, business, and the work of key partners such as the Cardiff and Vale UHB, the Police, the Third Sector and Town and Community Councils. In developing the new Plan, the need to reflect the Council's community leadership role, mental health and staff wellbeing issues, the importance of culture, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles had also been recognised.

Appendix B to the report detailed the consultation undertaken, the feedback received and how the Council had responded. The officer noted that a number of interesting and valuable points had been made which had helped to shape the revised Plan and would also inform the Annual Delivery Plan. These included:

- Greater emphasis on health and well-being
- More information regarding the actions the Council would undertake year on year
- Importance of information being accessible and engaging and how the Council communicated with residents and service users
- The importance of arts, culture and leisure
- The importance of volunteering and the range of community and individual benefits
- Overall support for the actions and objectives but interest in how they would be delivered.

The officer continued by explaining that the aim of the Plan had been to provide the strategic framework for 2020-25 and reflect how different activities would deliver a wide range of outcomes through four Well-being Objectives which were:

- To work with and for our communities
- To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
- To support people at home and in their community
- To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment.

The draft Plan set out a definition of each objective and the actions to be taken over the five years to achieve them. The officer noted that the objectives formed an holistic package of activity to deliver the Council's vision and to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals in an integrated manner.

During the engagement and consultation stages of producing the draft Plan, feedback had been received suggesting that the Council could enhance the transparency of achieving its Well-being Objectives by being more specific about the action that would be taken each year to deliver the Plan. In response, it had been proposed that a new approach to corporate planning should be adopted and this would involve the publication of an Annual Delivery Plan to accompany the overarching five year Corporate Plan. The Annual Delivery Plan would set out the key activities to be undertaken to deliver on the commitments in the Corporate Plan by the Council each year and will be published each Spring. This would directly inform individual Service Plans which were also produced annually and contained annual performance measures and targets.

The officer continued by highlighting that the current approach to reporting and scrutiny of the Corporate Plan was based on a set of five performance reports aligned with each of the well-being outcomes and overall corporate health. However, the Well-being Objectives contained in the draft Corporate Plan were more integrated and cross-cutting than the existing Plan and demonstrated how the actions across the Council would contribute to multiple objectives, which in turn required a more integrated approach to the way performance was monitored, scrutinised and reported.

It was therefore proposed that a single report be developed to demonstrate progress and each Scrutiny Committee would receive a presentation of the progress made in the period from the perspective of that Committee's Terms of Reference. The resulting comments from each Committee would be drawn together to provide an holistic assessment of performance and be considered by Cabinet at a meeting dedicated to the Corporate Plan. A 'Performance Cabinet' meeting would provide an opportunity for Cabinet Members to present progress from the perspective of their portfolios and identify how the activity underway across the organisation was working together to deliver the Annual Delivery Plan and overall Corporate Plan. At the first meeting of each Scrutiny Committee following the Annual Meeting, it was further proposed that a presentation would be given of the Annual Delivery Plan in the context of the Corporate Plan and Terms of Reference of the Committee.

The officer concluded the presentation of the report by advising that following consideration by the Committee, Cabinet would be asked to consider the Committee's views and review and endorse the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 as the basis for referral to Council for approval.

A Committee Member remarked that in his view the consultation with the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum had provided good feedback, particularly in relation to the importance of public transport and the difficulties experienced in getting through to the Council's Contact Centre. The Member emphasised that the Plan should answer those who had been consulted for feedback, and that the Council should in turn ensure that their needs were met.

Another Committee Member then asked whether the Corporate Plan had been prepared in collaboration with other documents that were referred to Scrutiny Committees for consideration (for instance the Capital Strategy), or whether these were drafted separately to one another. As the Corporate Plan aimed to give an overall idea of the direction in which the Council was moving, he was interested to know whether it informed other key Council documents and what the process behind this looked like. The officer confirmed that there was collaboration involved in the development of the Corporate Plan alongside other key documents, and a series of conversations take place between officers during the preparation of all significant Council strategies such as the Corporate Plan. He highlighted that whilst the aim of the Corporate Plan was to set out the Council's strategic commitments and provide a framework within which services were to be delivered, these were ultimately subject to the availability of resources, and the extent to which commitments could be delivered upon would be subject to the availability of funding to support the work.

The Chairman highlighted that the consultation with the Youth Cabinet had raised some good points and noted that this demographic had their own concerns and issues which should be addressed by the Corporate Plan, Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees. The Chairman also asked how the draft Annual Delivery Plan was progressing. In response, the officer advised that sessions with Heads of Service had recently concluded in the development of their Service Plans. In parallel, conversations were underway with Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team regarding the identification of important priorities and what they would like to see being prioritised in the coming year. These would be brought together in the Annual Delivery Plan, a draft of which was to be considered by Scrutiny Committees in March / April 2020. The officer also expressed a commitment to collaborating with external partners, assuring that the Council would not be aiming to tackle larger scale issues such as Climate Change on its own.

A Committee Member remarked that when the initial draft of the Plan had been brought to Scrutiny Committees for consideration, she had expressed concern regarding the depth of the consultation that would be taking place and in particular to the issue of equalities and ensuring that harder to reach groups' voices were heard. The Member continued by expressing the view that it was important now to manage the expectations of those who had responded to the consultation, and a conversation should take place about feedback, explaining to consultees why choices had been made about the inclusion of priorities in the revised Plan. The officer acknowledged the Committee Member's concerns regarding the depth of the consultation and continued by further acknowledging the need for ongoing conversations to take place with consultees, and in publishing the Delivery Plan the Council needed to be specific regarding the activity that was being undertaken in relation to delivering the objectives within the Corporate Plan. In conclusion the officer took the opportunity to

assure Members that his Service area was up for the challenge and would continually be monitoring progress.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his comprehensive report to the Committee, and there being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be requested to ensure that appropriate feedback is given to consultees e.g. Youth Cabinet etc.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents contained therein and the discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To ensure that feedback to responses is acknowledged.

659 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2019 (MD) –

The Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer presented the report which advised Committee that the revenue position for 2019/20 was challenging and that a savings target for the year had been set at £3.020m. The officer also noted that a number of services were anticipating adverse variances by year end and would not achieving their savings targets in full this year, and the use of reserves had therefore been approved in the short term to overcome the issue. The position by service area was detailed as follows

Directorate / Service	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	Variance
	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Projected	(+)Favourable (-) Adverse
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Learning and Skills				
Schools	87,806	87,806	87,806	0
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	11,128	11,299	11,565	-266
Directors Office	225	225	225	0
Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing	2,380	2,409	3,050	-641
Standards and Provision	4,070	4,070	4,051	+19
Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend	0	0	(500)	+500
Additional Savings to be Found	0	0	(388)	+388

Social Services

Children and Young People	16,098	16,195	16,795	-600
Adult Services	47,957	47,903	48,603	-700
Resource Management & Safeguarding	272	281	281	0
Youth Offending Service	741	742	642	+100
Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend	0	0	(1,200)	+1,200

Environment and Housing

Neighbourhood Services & Transport	26,792	26,658	28,658	-2,000
Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend	0	0	(2,000)	+2,000
Regulatory Services	2,041	2,022	2,022	0
Council Fund Housing	1,309	1,326	1,326	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(21)	1,795	1,795	0

Managing Director & Resources

Resources	14	259	259	0
Regeneration	2,057	2,022	2,022	0
Development Management	967	963	963	0
Private Housing	1,209	1,008	1,008	0
General Policy	23,032	22,910	16,410	+6,500
Transfer to Reserves	0	0	6,500	-6,500
Planned Use of Council Fund	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	0
Total	226,077	227,893	227,893	0

The officer continued by drawing Members' attention to the statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report which detailed savings targets across the Authority for 2019/20.

Each savings target had been given a RAG status. Green indicated that it was anticipated that the target would be achieved in full within the year, Amber indicated that it was considered that the saving in the year would be within 20% of the target and Red indicated that the saving to be achieved in year would be less than 80% of the target.

Most services were anticipating achieving their savings target and it was currently anticipated that there would be a shortfall of £586k (19.4%). Details of areas where savings would not be achieved were as follows.

Social Services – Older Persons Day Services. Cabinet on 29th July, 2019 agreed the start of a consultation process relating to the proposed future provision of day

services for older people. Cabinet on 18th November, 2019 agreed an option for the way forward. Given the timescales, the full saving would not be achieved in 2019/20.

Neighbourhood and Transport Services – There was a savings target this year of £932k however, it was currently anticipated that £462k would be achieved leaving a shortfall of £470k to be identified. Work was continuing to identify schemes to close this gap. Any shortfall in 2019/20 would be offset by an amount set aside in the Neighbourhood Services reserve.

Council Fund Housing – It was projected that the CCTV savings would not be achieved in 2019/20 which equated to a shortfall of £76k in 2019/20. There were ongoing discussions with South Wales Police and officers from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office to address future CCTV provision in the Vale. The Council had committed a capital budget of £350k to support a new CCTV strategy with ongoing revenue commitment falling to partner agencies if agreement could be reached on a spend to save basis. It was noted that further updates on progress against the savings targets would be provided to Members during the year.

A Member asked the officer for clarification regarding the CCTV savings, as there was an apparent discrepancy between the reporting of a savings shortfall of £76k and a commitment of £350k towards a new CCTV strategy. The officer responded by clarifying that the commitment of £350k towards a new strategy was to come from the Authority’s capital budget and represented a proposed investment in new CCTV equipment. The question of a £76k savings shortfall related to a separate issue of which partner agency would manage the strategy.

Another Member noted that while a number of departments within the Authority were facing adverse variances, it was worth highlighting that in some areas, for instance General Policy, there were positive variances as high as £6.5m and he therefore did not feel it was overly fair for the report to have such a negative focus. The officer acknowledged that there had been an underspend on Policy, however this had not been the case in other areas and the report accurately reflected this.

Following a query as to the progress in relation to regarding the Bus Shelter Sponsorship saving as listed at Appendix 1, the officer replied that the saving was delayed as the project was to start in the next financial year.

There being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2019/20 revenue budget be noted.

Reason for recommendation

In view of the content of the report.

660 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2019 TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2019 (MD) –

The Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer presented the report which provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1st April to 30th November, 2019 and details by scheme were shown at Appendix 1 to the report. The report also set out any requested changes to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Capital Programme.

A Member raised a query in relation to the roof renewal works required at Ysgol Pen y Garth, asking where things stood at present given that the comments at Appendix 1 to the report indicated that works were due to have started on site in January 2020. The officer responded that this work had gone out to tender as scheduled, however as no responses had been received in the timescale a retendering process had taken place which was due to close at the end of February. The Member subsequently queried whether there was any further information regarding the slippage in relation to the Court Road car park, to which the officer replied that she would obtain further information and circulate this to Members following the meeting.

A Committee Member then asked, with regard to the WeITAG Stage 2 Study for the Dinas Powys Transport Network, whether Welsh Government had been approached for Stage 3 funding, to which the Leader responded that until Stage 2 had been completed Stage 3 funding could not be requested. He also advised that he anticipated that the current Stage might be finalised in April 2020. Given the number of schemes that had been completed another Member commented that he had also been pleased to note that the works relating to flooding in Boverton had been completed successfully and within budget. It was noted that this had been largely due to the fact that the works carried out had been a design to build and that the Council should consider this approach when considering future works on schemes. The Committee Member then remarked that with regard to the request to carry forward £505k into the 2020/21 Capital Programme for New Household Waste Recycling Western Vale, he sincerely hoped this scheme did not slip any further.

A Member also sought clarification regarding Section 106 slippage with specific regard to the scheme at Dochdwy Road public open space, and asked whether there was any further detail available regarding what the £1k outlined at Appendix 1 had been used for. The officer responded that she would obtain further information following the meeting and reply to Members in due course.

Following a request for an update on the catering trailer scheme and whether it was operational, the officer in response stated that the trailer was in operation and opportunities to trade were being pursued. The officer agreed to obtain further information regarding its future timetable and relay this to Members. The Committee Member queried whether there was an ongoing cost of staffing the trailer while it was not operational. The officer replied that this was not the case and the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development offered further clarification explaining that no additional resources were required for the operation of the catering trailer, instead the scheme would allow lower income employees to take up additional opportunities to work and earn more at their discretion.

Following a request as to whether there was any further information available regarding the LTF Barry Docks Interchange listed at Appendix 1 to the report, the Leader responded that this scheme was part of the development of the South Wales Metro within the Cardiff City Deal and he understood that the particular scheme in question would likely become a park and ride facility.

The Chairman in conclusion asked the officer what progress had been made with the works required to the changing rooms at Penarth Leisure Centre given these were forecast to be complete by the end of February and that he had received a number of complaints from members of the public in relation to the matter. The Leader advised that the works were scheduled to be completed before the February half term holiday.

There being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on the 2019/20 Capital Programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority as set out in the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers as set out in the report be noted.
- (4) T H A T the changes to the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Capital Programme as set out in the report be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report..
- (4) In order that schemes could proceed in the current and future financial years.

661 3RD QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2019/20 (MD) –

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and to confirm the updated work programme schedule for 2019/20.

The officer drew Committee Members' attention to Appendix A to the report, which set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in order that Members could review progress against each recommendation, assess whether further action may be required, ensure the required action was undertaken and confirm which recommendations were to be agreed as completed. The officer highlighted that the majority of recommendations contained in Appendix A to the report had been marked as completed, with the exception of the recommendation that arrangements

be made for Members of the Scrutiny Committee to undertake a visit to the BSC (Min. No. 419 – 24th October, 2019). The officer advised that due to a number of apologies having been received from Committee Members, the site visit would be rescheduled..

The officer also drew Members' attention to the updated Scrutiny Committee work programme schedule attached at Appendix B to the report and noted that the additional reports requested by the Committee in the course of discussions at the current meeting would be added to the work programme in due course. The officer also advised Committee Members that a revised format for Scrutiny work programmes had been drafted by officers within the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Team and subject to approval by relevant officers and Elected Members, would be adopted in the new Municipal year.

The officer concluded by advising Committee Members that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was due to take place on 1st April and would commence at 4.00p.m.

There being no further questions, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendix A to the report be noted and the following actions deemed completed:

02 October 2019	
<p>Min. No. 346 – Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report: 2018/19 (REF) – Recommended to Cabinet</p> <p>(1) That Cabinet be urged to consider a Zero-Tolerance Policy be put in place in relation to DBS checks and all associated checks being received prior to an applicant commencing employment corporately and in schools.</p> <p>(2) That future reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee include the reasons for non-compliance with regard to schools as outlined above.</p>	<p>Cabinet, on 4th November, 2019, resolved that future reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee include the reasons for non-compliance with regard to schools as outlined above. Also, that the effects of a Zero-Tolerance Policy in relation to checks be added to the annual report. (Min No C137 refers) Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 347 – Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance Report – Corporate Health (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That the Committee continues to monitor and scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board with regular reports being presented to the Committee.</p>	<p>Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p>

<p>Min. No. 348 – 1st Quarter Scrutiny Decision Tracking of Recommendations and Updated Work Programme Schedule 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That the forward work programme be amended to include that a report in relation to the Contact Centre will be brought to the Scrutiny Committee before April 2020.</p> <p>(3) That reports in respect of matters being considered by the Public Services Board be presented to the Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.</p> <p>(4) That the forward work programme be updated and uploaded to the Council's website.</p>	<p>(2) Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p> <p>(3) Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p> <p>(4) Work programme schedule updated and uploaded to the Council's website. Completed</p>
<p>24 October 2019</p>	
<p>Min. No. 414 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 (REF) – Recommended that Cabinet be requested to consider the demographic growth within the Vale of Glamorgan and its impact on resources and to consider further investment opportunities for the future of the Council.</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 16th December, 2019, resolved that the contents of the report be noted, and Cabinet would continue to consider the demographic growth within the Vale of Glamorgan and its impact on resources and would consider further investment opportunities for the future of the Council. (Min. No. C170 refers) Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 415 – Reshaping Services: Update on Implementation (REF) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That regular progress updates continue to be provided to the Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the Reshaping Services programme</p>	<p>Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 416 – Reshaping Services: Town and Community Council Engagement in Operating Local Services and Assets (REF) – Recommended</p> <p>(1) That Cabinet be urged to progress discussions with Town and Community Councils.</p> <p>(2) That TUPE arrangements, the Council's view on strategic arrangements, any legal advice required, setting up a fund to assist with</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 16th December, 2019, noted the contents of the report. (Min. No. C171 refers) Completed</p>

<p>the transfer of assets be considered by Cabinet when discussing matters with Town and Community Councils and that progress on the agenda be urged in view of impending budgetary discussions within the Vale and the Town and Community Councils' budgetary processes themselves.</p>	
<p>Min. No. 417 – Revenue Monitoring for the Period 1st April to 31st August 2019 (MD) – Recommended (2) That Cabinet be requested to discuss with the WLGA further lobbying of Welsh Government regarding funding for Local Authorities. (3) That discussions take place with retailers and manufacturers regarding the amount of plastic produced and options for reduction.</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 16th December, 2019, noted the contents of the report. (Min. No. C172 refers) Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 419 – Other Musculoskeletal Absence 2018/19 and 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended (3) That further information be brought to the Scrutiny Committee as appropriate in relation to arrangements being made for further assistance with occupational health referrals.</p>	<p>Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p>
<p>27 November 2019</p>	
<p>Min. No. 482 – Q2 Sickness Absence Report 2019/2020 (REF) – Recommended (2) That further data capture information as outlined above be presented to future meetings of the Committee and the Committee's forward work programme be amended accordingly. (3) That Cabinet be informed of the Committee's intention to seek further information and to report back once that information has been received.</p>	<p>(2) Added to work programme schedule. Completed (3) Cabinet, at its meeting on 20th January, 2020, noted the report. (Min. No. C188 refers) Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 485 – Welfare Reform – Progress Report (MD) – Recommended (1) That Cabinet consider sending a letter to Welsh Government lobbying for an increase in the Discretionary Housing Payments Grant jointly in the names of the Cabinet Member for</p>	<p>(1) Cabinet, at its meeting on 20th January, 2020, resolved that it was premature to write to Welsh Government at this time, but agreed to review the position following the budget</p>

<p>Housing and Building Services the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health.</p> <p>(2) That a further report on the progress of Welfare Reform be presented to the Committee in May 2020 and that the Committee's work programme be amended accordingly.</p>	<p>and if necessary, would write once all accounts were finalised. (Min. No. C187 refers) Completed (2) Added to work programme schedule. Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 486 – 2nd Quarter Scrutiny Decision Tracking of Recommendations and Updated Work Programme Schedule 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That the work programme outlined at Appendix B to the report be approved, subject to the additional reports as discussed at the meeting and outlined below being included in a revised work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sickness Absence Report: to include data on staff purchasing additional annual leave; long terms sickness with details of stress and measures in place to assist staff and work / life balance initiatives and phased returns; and information on the issue of stomach ailments; - Report on the progress of Welfare Reform be presented to the Committee in May 2020. <p>(3) That the revised work programme as outlined above be uploaded to the Council's website as soon as possible.</p>	<p>(2) Work programme schedule updated. Completed</p> <p>(3) Work programme schedule uploaded to the Council's website. Completed</p>
<p>19 December 2019</p>	
<p>Min. No. 568 – Quarter 2 2019/20 Performance Report – Corporate Health (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That the remedial actions taken to address areas of underperformance and the challenges identified were considered with the Committee's views and recommendations being referred thereafter to Cabinet for their consideration and approval.</p> <p>(3) That Additional Learning Needs and other education provisions be</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 20th January, 2020, noted the report and endorsed that Additional Learning Needs should be a stand alone risk within the Risk Register. (Min. No. C192 refers) Completed</p>

grouped as a separate risk priority on future reporting	
<p>Min. No. 569 – Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2020/21 to 2024/25 and Capital Monitoring 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(1) That the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2020/21 to 2024/25 were considered along with recommendations from other Scrutiny Committees and the recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet.</p> <p>(5) That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that priority be given to those capital bids that fall within the criteria for Health and Safety legislation (Priority Level A) and those of Economic Sense/Invest to Save (Priority Level Ci).</p> <p>(6) That the Committee recommend to Cabinet for emphasis to be given to bid NST1 – Carriageway resurfacing/ Surface treatments, which should be successful in order to maintain roads to an acceptable standard and because resurfacing is recognised as a major challenge as standards could deteriorate very quickly.</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 20th January, 2020, noted the contents of the report. (Min. No. C191 refers)</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 570 – Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2020/21 and Revised Budget 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended</p> <p>(2) That, having considered the Initial Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20 together with the recommendations from other Scrutiny Committees, the Committee's recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet</p> <p>(6) That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that despite the indicative budget increase of 4.9% for 2020/21 from Welsh Government, it be noted that the cost pressures for Environment and Housing and Special Educational Needs (SEN) would still remain and therefore need to be fully considered.</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 20th January, 2020, noted the contents of the report. (Min. No. C190 refers)</p> <p>Completed</p>

(2) T H A T the work programme schedule attached at Appendix B be updated to include the additional reports as outlined below and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For information and further consideration.