

No.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 21st October, 2020.

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

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

Also present: Councillors N. Moore (Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) and L. Burnett (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration).

151 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Principal Democratic Services Officer referred to a number of housekeeping issues including advising that the meeting would be recorded for uploading via the internet and archived for future viewing.

152 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

154 CORONA VIRUS RECOVERY STRATEGY (REF) –

Cabinet, at its meeting on 21st September, 2020, had received a report on the Corona Virus Recovery Strategy and had requested that the report be referred to all Scrutiny Committees for consideration having regard to identifying any particular areas of focus for the Committees' Forward Work Programmes.

The Strategy was structured around the three phases to the Council's management of the pandemic: response, transition and recovery.

Reflecting on the learning from response had identified a series of recovery themes which had been aligned with the Council's Well-being Objectives drawn from the Corporate Plan 2020-25.

No.

Informed by a Community Impact Assessment, Economic Impact Assessment and the reflective learning from staff, partners and Members, a number of strategic recovery priorities had been identified. These priorities provided the strategic direction for services to develop recovery plans and would inform the Council's Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22.

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation, in presenting the report, advised that the report provided a commentary to the structure and content of the Corona Virus Recovery Strategy it being noted that since Cabinet's consideration of a previous report in July 2020, recovery work had commenced in parallel with the transition phase for services. This phase involved the longer term consideration of how the Council would work in the future, giving thought to the learning from the pandemic and the pressure and demands arising from it. The Strategy identified that pursuing the strategic recovery priorities would require effective involvement, engagement and communication, understanding of the Council's partners' issues, working together, focusing on the longer term and seeking to understand and prevent the root causes of issues. One other important factor would be to ensure that the Council used its learning and moved forward. Director colleagues were putting together local plans and would be presenting progress and up to date information on these as part of the next quarter's performance monitoring reports.

During consideration of the report, a Member stated that in their view, there should be speedier and more regular updates provided for Members and that he was keeping an eye on the Public Health Wales figures. From the Vale's point of view, he stated it was refreshing to see that figures showed very low numbers in the Penarth and Barry areas. Another Member also commented that following an economic briefing session they had attended it was evident that a number of local businesses who had not been able to trade during the Corona Virus pandemic may not actually reopen when things did eventually go 'back to normal'. Another Member also felt they would like to understand what the current feelings of the Cabinet were since the report had been considered in September.

Following a comment from a Penarth Member although they realised the report was a Strategy for Recovery, at a recent Penarth Town Council meeting where the positives were discussed it was noted that a Capital Grant of £400,000 was expected and Councillors needed to know rapidly the impact for businesses and hospitality and, in particular, what the Council was able to do for them. With regard to the four themes that were referred to in the report, the Vale Council also needed to be sure that equality was being foremostly considered with regard to these themes. It was evident they stated that if you were from a poorer background, elderly, or a person with an ethnic minority background they were likely to be affected the hardest. They therefore considered that the Vale needed to be saying exactly what it intended doing and what was integral as part of its Recovery Strategy.

It was however, acknowledged by all present that the Council faced a difficult situation with regard to the pandemic and that spending money was not always the answer. However, following a request from a Member that the Council should be thinking about what ideas it had going forward, it was subsequently reaffirmed

No.

by the Chairman that all Members, officers, the public etc, needed to be working together and put forward suggestions for recovery. It was also important, it was stated, that the Council helped the groups within the Vale that needed the most assistance and that all needed to consider and suggest ways of reaching those that are hard to reach within the area.

The Deputy Leader, with permission to speak, stated that guidance was awaited from WG with the regard to the proposed firebreak lockdown and that regular updates on the situation were being provided to Members, staff and the public from the Leader and the Managing Director. A considerable amount of work had also already been undertaken with hard to reach clients. There were constant meetings and referrals being undertaken and the schools had done considerable work to reach vulnerable families. However, she also urged all present to put forward any ideas and suggestions they may have to assist recovery, as it was a work in progress and everyone was learning. With regard to the business grants available, everyone had been working hard to ensure that the money was forwarded to businesses in as timely and urgent a manner as possible. The Town Centres Team had also held meetings with businesses and by working together, it would ensure that the work required was done.

The Head of Service stated that a number of the points that had been made by the Deputy Leader in relation to Members' concerns were also regularly being discussed by the Senior Leadership Group at their weekly meetings held under the mechanisms associated with the Coronavirus Prevention and Response Plan. The Chairman and Chief Executive of Cardiff and the Vale UHB and Leader and Chief Executive of Cardiff Council were also included in such discussions and work was continuing to ensure that maps or other ways of how the information was presented were developed as well as reducing the timeline for test results received. During the pandemic peoples' wellbeing and mental health had also come to the forefront and the work of the Crisis Support Team had been refocused as a result. Its remit had also been broadened as well as general community support services. In terms of equalities, the Community Impact Assessment was probably the most focused work the Council had done and detailed who the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on. Multiagency work had also been ongoing throughout the pandemic and the team had met a number of organisations having regard to how to sustain and tackle equality issues. The report did not provide a detailed step-by-step process in relation to its actions as this had been considered to be the responsibility of each Directorate, however a framework had been required in order to assist with the Council prioritising its work.

At a recent meeting of the Council's Senior Leadership Team, the Leader and Deputy Leader had also met to finalise the implications for all services over the two week firebreak lockdown and following a call with the Head of Service for Welsh Government's Communications, the Council would be amplifying the Welsh Government messages, providing targeted local messages within the Vale and talking about what our residents could do and not just providing messages about the restrictions. The meetings had been very open and transparent with discussions focusing on working with Welsh Government in relation to the Communications Strategy.

No.

Following a query as to where people could purchase food etc during the firebreak the Head of Service stated that the local restrictions advised that people should not leave the Local Authority for unnecessary travel. A Member advised that they had also been made aware that a member of the public had travelled from Bridgend to Culverhouse Cross and had been met with a fine from the police for doing so.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet be informed of the comments made at the meeting in relation to the following:

- Support given to businesses;
- The need to ensure that the Council was as upfront as possible with its proposals and having regard to matters of equality.

(2) T H A T Members be updated as soon as possible on any proposals.

Reason for recommendations

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

155 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD PROGRESS REPORT (MD) –

The Public Services Board (PSB) had launched its Wellbeing Plan on 22nd May, 2018 and since its launch partners had been working to progress the Wellbeing Objectives set out in the Plan and the actions aligned to those objectives.

The report therefore provided an update on the work of the PSB and discussions between partners about the future focus of the work of the PSB including greater alignment with the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) responding to the Future Generations Report and the impact of Covid-19.

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation, in presenting the report advised that the main thrust of discussions that had been undertaken at the October meeting of the PSB centred around dealing with the Corona Virus pandemic. It was also important, he stated to consider different ways of working including the support from volunteers and the opportunities that had been seen over the summer period as a result of the pandemic. The Head of Service further advised that he had met with the Director of the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership (reporting to the RPB), to discuss better alignment of the work of the PSB and the RPB. The Director of the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership had also attended the meeting to update the PSB on the work of the RPB and participate in discussion about how the PSB and RPB could align the work of the partnerships and work together to improve local wellbeing. The RPB

No.

was now focusing more on people and places and moving away from focusing on services and organisations. The work of the RPB would also concentrate on three streams of activity i.e. starting well (ages 0 – 25), living well (working age and into older age) and aging well (older age and end of life).

A Member highlighted the fact that the Council should now be looking at how successful the PSB had been and the ambitions linked with resources. A Member also raised a query on the aspects of time banking and the role of Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) in relation to how time banking proposals fitted in and the upscaling or integration of its work with the wider network. It was noted that the Move More, Eat Well sounded an excellent idea for the summer months but queried how this would operate within the winter environment.

With regard to RPBs, the Member commented that very few people in his view understood what the roles were and asked what the Council's intentions would be to raise awareness. The Chairman raised his concern around the need to ensure access to good quality food and enquired how much engagement was being done to ensure affordability and contribute to healthy lifestyles. Other comments related to mental health provision with a further enquiry as to how much assistance the PSB was giving to organisations, for example the Samaritans, who supported vulnerable people and those who were isolated and lonely. It was important, the Chairman stated, for Members to understand their role in relation to these aspects. A Member also raised the issue that under the previous lockdown Members were advised not to physically meet with members of the public and sought clarity going forward. The Head of Service stated that in his view it was important to consider the community impact issues in order to understand what experiences people had of the situation they were living in, what was happening within their area and what the Council and PSB needed to be doing. The Head of Service offered to provide further information in relation to time banking and the involvement of GVS and that this information be shared with Members via email as well as the information in relation to the project Move More, Eat Well going into the winter months.

Having regard to the issue of good quality food, it was noted that the slides within the report identified the work being undertaken to ensuring good quality nutritious food was available, referring to the work the schools were doing with regard to vulnerable families and that the PSB were looking to develop relationships with other organisations. A number of organisations had met to consider such aspects with the focus being on what had we lost, what were we all doing, where there were gaps, what were the priorities which would all be taken forward and based upon. The Head of Service also advised that he would consult with colleagues as to how they would suggest Members continued to work safely with their constituents during the pandemic.

A further comment was made by a Member as in their view the title "PSB" was too dry and needed to be revisited, in order to appear more engaging to the public and to "grab the imagination more". The Chairman asked all Members to consider this comment and to provide any suggestions for change to the Head of Service.

The Member for Llantwit Major advised that he was currently working with a number of local organisations and was himself supporting a group of people who

No.

were working with people in need. Members also considered that there were people who would not wish to or were embarrassed to ask for help and that the Council should consider ways of trying to reach these people as well.

Having regard to the recommendation contained within the report that the Committee identify areas of particular focus for future scrutiny activity, it was agreed that more information in relation to time banking and the Move Well, Eat Well project be presented to the Committee in due course. The Head of Service advised that he would be happy to bring further update reports on progress to the Committee and additional information as outlined within the report and by the Committee. A Member also suggested that requests be made to different organisations to be invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee in order for Members to understand more clearly the work that was being undertaken and how things interacted from their perspective. Having regard to the third recommendation outlined within the report, regarding the Committee identifying areas of particular focus for future Scrutiny activity, it was suggested that in the first instance, early in 2021, a representative from Public Health Wales be invited to provide an update on the Move More, Eat Well project and that a later meeting a representative from the Local Health Board attend on the subject of mental health issues.

Having fully considered the report and the comments at the meeting it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the information requested in relation to time banking, and the Move Well, Eat Well project going into the winter months as outlined above be emailed to Members.
- (2) T H A T the Committee receives regular updates on a six monthly basis on the work of the Public Services Board.
- (3) T H A T in early 2021 a representative from Public Health Wales be invited to a meeting to provide details of the Move More, Eat Well Project and that a representative from the Local Health Board be invited to provide details from its perspective in relation to Mental Health issues.
- (4) T H A T the items referred to in Recommendations (2), (3) and (4) above be added to the Committee's work programme and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reason for recommendations

(1-4) Having regard to the contents within the report and the discussions at the meeting.