

No.

## **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor J. Protheroe (Chair), Councillor E. Goodjohn (Vice-Chair); Councillors G.D.D. Carroll, P. Drake, C.P. Franks, S.J. Haines, H.C. Hamilton, S.M. Hanks, Dr. I.J. Johnson, B. Loveluck-Edwards and N.J. Wood.

Also Present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### 357 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

### 358 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### 359 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

### 360 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, which included:

- The report set out the new performance duties of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LG&E Act), as well as provide an update in terms of the self-assessment process.
- Also included within the report (under Appendix A) was the Annual Performance Calendar itself. It was felt prudent, in light of the new duties and the introduction of new elected members after the local government elections this year, to put such areas of performance, planning, reports, target setting,

No.

etc., in one place, in order for Elected Members to be able to see how all of the various aspects of the performance calendar fit together.

- As part of this process, Elected Members would also have the opportunity to shape and discuss the work being undertaken as part of the calendar. This, in part, had been influenced by comments previously raised at this Committee, concerning the need to explore different ways of presenting information to enable scrutiny to be as effective as possible, given the time that had to spend on dealing with agendas. Also, Elected Members had already to start participating in workshops to help shape the Council's self-assessment process and to inform quarterly performance.

Following the presentation of the reference and report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Dr. Johnson highlighted that previously Scrutiny Committees often received detailed and large performance and other types of reports, documents, etc. fairly 'late in the day' which meant it was difficult for Elected Members to be able to fully grasp the content of this material and therefore to be able to properly scrutinise this material effectively. He added that it was important now, with the new self-assessment framework, to get confirmation whether that work already being undertaken was being 'dovetailed' with the new duties in relation to self-assessment in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication and 'reinventing the wheel'. It was explained that the Council, wherever possible, sought to utilise existing mechanisms and build on them to make sure that the Council met its the new duties i.e. with the Annual Report which has been traditionally produced by the Council, a supplement would be now included concerning value for money. This was due to the LG&E Act requiring the Council to demonstrate how it achieved value for money in terms of using its resources to deliver the Council's objectives.
- Councillor Loveluck-Edwards referred to the 'Member Workshops' and 'Member Engagement' referenced throughout Appendix A of the report and the need to ensure that Members (particularly newly elected ones) received supporting information for these areas in advance and to have a 'jargon buster' included, so that Members could fully understand what the various acronyms and abbreviations used in Council reporting meant. The Director would ensure that information was shared with Members in advance of any future workshop or engagement sessions. In terms of 'jargon', efforts were made to filter such wording as much as possible from reports and other documents, and this would continue to be done.

Having considered the reference and report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar 2022/23 and the proposed approach to engaging with Members in-year to shape and refine the Annual Performance Calendar and associated processes, plans and reports to enable the Council to meet the new performance requirements be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

361 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 was presented by the Operational Manager - Accountancy. They explained to the Committee that the economic position had changed somewhat since the report was originally drafted.

The headlines of the report were:

- The Council had received a number of grants late in the financial year and that had resulted in significant increases in reserves for the Council, i.e. the additional Revenue Support Grant in March 2022, allocated to offset overspends (such as Neighborhood Services) and for funding, i.e. for the ongoing Oracle implementation and the purchase of electric vehicles within Social Services. Additional funding had also been received to support Social Services, cost of living and COVID-19.
- Reserves had increased overall to £18.151m, after the necessary adjustments were made. This included £642k into the Council fund and a significant proportion of this funding was required to be ring fenced and spent in accordance with the grant criteria.
- There were some underspends against capital financing costs, because the Council continued to maximise its internal borrowing and therefore it paid less than it would for borrowing costs externally. The Council had received some additional Council Tax income in year, which partly reflected increased development in the region. Those surpluses were used to finance capital schemes for 2022/23 i.e. improvements at Barry Island and the country parks.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was 'ring-fenced' and had seen a budget surplus, ending with a balance / reserve of approximately £17m. This was higher than was previously projected in the current Housing Business Plan, mainly due to the reduction in the revenue contribution to Capital Programme due to the various delays in delivering the Capital Program such as inflationary costs and costs and delays in securing professional skills, etc.
- There was a shortfall against the Council's efficiency target in year of £120k due to a 'time lag' associated with implementing some of these savings. But during 2022/23 the Council would continue to monitor those savings until they were achieved.

Following the presentation of the reference and report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- On Councillor Dr. Johnson's comment and question on the contrast between the finances earlier on in the year and later when these late grants, etc. coming at year end and earmarked for specific purposes were being utilised and whether these fed into the Annual report, it was explained that such

No.

grants were ring fenced to deliver capital and other schemes (i.e. school maintenance and free school meals) and would be spent in the current financial year. Going forward and due to the challenging economic circumstances, it would be necessary for the Council to draw down on its reserves. It would also be necessary to review the Council's reserves and their part in helping to deliver savings as part of a balanced budget.

- The Councillor pointed out that under the current Housing Business Plan, the aim was to keep the HRA to £1m, but this was currently £17m. This had been seen over a number of years now regarding HRA, where surpluses had been seen and assurance given that these would be used, but they continued to grow. They were concerned that this could cause a 'ratcheting effect' in terms of the Council's reserves and wanted to know what progress was being made in dealing with this. It was explained where those reserves were ring fenced to deliver capital schemes such as schools' maintenance and free school meals they were all to be spent in this financial year and progress had been made in spending on areas such as cost of living, discretionary funding, etc. as well as more 'blanket' type allocations i.e. funding set aside for the pandemic. The reserves could also be drawn down to support increased costs for the Council (i.e. the Housing Capital Programme), should they be required in the future and particularly in light of the figures outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh.
- Councillor Carroll asked about the adverse variance / overspend on the ICT and the subsequent use of reserves. It was explained that this was necessary in order to support the implementation of a new Oracle system.

Having considered the reference and report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Final amended 2021/22 budget as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

#### Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and amended budget for 2021/22 which reflects an increase in Revenue Support Grant awarded by Welsh Government during 2021/22.

#### 362 CAPITAL CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 was presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy, who highlighted the following:

- The underspend on the revised Capital Programme in 2021/22 was £13.410m against a budget of £79.821m with actual spend of £66.411m. There was also slippage of £11.496m against planned programmes of work during the

No.

year and this had been brought forward into the 2022/23 Capital Programme with approval via Chief Executive's Emergency Powers.

- Schemes had been subject to delays, mainly due to the current economic climate that had increased the cost of materials and labour and led to further negotiations with contractors and project reengineering.
- There was a considerable amount of additional funding available for the Capital Programme, but it was a challenge to comply with all the various terms and conditions.
- Capital expenditure was sufficient to cover the full allocation of the supported borrowing and but there was a carry forward against the general capital grant of £539k.
- Also, there had been a £1.191m drawdown from reserves to fund the Capital Programme, which was less than expected, due to the number of late grants received. Due to this the Council switched the funding around to fund them from these grant funding to allow the Council to ring fence those sums in its reserves to deliver those grant schemes in the next financial year and £4.6m of capital receipts were received and the capital receipts balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March was £16.2m.
- Key areas of capital spend included:
  - The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.
  - Housing Improvement Programme.
  - The (electric) Vehicle Replacement Programme.
  - Highway Resurfacing.

Following the presentation of the report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Franks raised a number of questions which were addressed as follows –
  - On the £11m slippage, it was explained that the relevant projects involved would be reprofiled and progressed within the current year unless reported otherwise to the Committee. The size of the slippage was due to various factors, including the size and complexity of the schemes involved, weather conditions, delays in materials, etc. The Council was improving the way it profiled and budgeted for these schemes by balancing its keenness and optimism to get these schemes completed against the need to take a considered, 'realistic' approach.
  - On the underspend on Public Sector Housing and the concerns raised in connection with this on the building and provision of social housing going forward, it was explained that such new build, social housing schemes were progressing in the current financial year and would be delivered. These schemes had slipped due to the factors outlined previously, plus the challenging economic environment. These questions were primarily operational however, and so would need to be addressed to the relevant officers.
- Regarding Councillor Loveluck-Edwards question on whether the number of grants successfully bidden for that came late in the previous financial year would be moved forward into the current year and benefit areas such as housing, it was explained that this was the case and would benefit various schemes and alleviate significant pressures.

No.

- The Vice-Chair pointed to the various factors behind slippage, such as labour shortages and the challenges around the acquisition of land for housing by the Council. This report was a fair and accurate record of what occurred and not what the Council should or should not be doing, which would be looked at by other reports to come to the Committee.
- The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources informed the Committee that slippage was inevitable in certain areas, i.e. in education, but despite this many projects had been delivered i.e. 5 brand new schools. Also, with new Council housing, the new development at Hayes Road, Penarth, was cited as well as housing developments elsewhere in the Vale. Such developments inevitably faced delays or challenges, such as dealing with the need for sustainable drainage. The Cabinet Member also referred to the recent Capital Strategy taken to Cabinet and the need to remain ambitious in the schemes undertaken by the Council even under current economic conditions, but to ensure that slippages were closely monitored and minimised.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson commented on some of the major slippages the Council faced, such as Ysgol Sant Baruc, for additional details to be included in future reports on key variances mentioned and on the need for the Committee to gain a greater understanding of what the appropriate level of slippage should be for the various capital projects of the Council and the factors behind such slippages. They suggested for future reports to have data comparing and 'benchmarking' the Vale against similar Local Authorities in terms of slippage, etc.

Having considered the reference and report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the year-end capital position for financial year 2021/22 be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and the year-end capital position for financial year 2021/22.

363 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2021-22 (REF) –

The recommendation of Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, the highlights of which included:

- Under the Welsh language standards legislation, the Council was required to produce an annual monitoring report (Appendix A) on areas such as what has been achieved in communications, access to services, translation services and training for Council staff and an Update on the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy, detailing how it had been implemented, with the current strategy reaching its fifth and final year.

No.

- As well as providing a retrospective overview and information in terms of monitoring the Council's achievements against the commitments in that strategy, going forward future reporting and updates on these standards would also provide greater context in terms of 'case studies' and 'lived experiences' concerning this topic.
- An interim version of these documents had been published online in order to comply with the relevant duties under the legislation.

Councillor Dr. Johnson raised the following questions or comments following the report:

- They felt the proposed case studies for future reports on these standards would be particularly useful in moving away from a 'tick box' approach, i.e. looking at staff experiences in learning Welsh and the user experience of Welsh speaking residents in accessing engaging with the Council via this medium.
- They also referred to the wording in the report about the Council's 'bilingual' social media, when in fact some of these accounts were separate Welsh and English ones (i.e. Twitter). The Director confirmed that this was correct, the reason being that separate accounts for English and Welsh provided a better user experience and, following the Chair's suggestion, the wording could be revisited in order to clarify this.
- They also queried the recruitment of bilingual staff into the Council's contact centre (C1V) and the need to build relationships with local Welsh medium schools as a potential 'pool' for this. The Director stressed the importance of pursuing recruitment of bilingual staff from local Welsh medium schools and increasing the overall number of Welsh speaking staff as part of the promotion strategy. They would share this with colleagues in Human Resources to take forward and update the Committee on its progress going forward.

On Councillor Carroll's query about the costs associated with the Welsh translation agreement with Cardiff Council vis a vis costs for an 'in-house' service or another third-party provider, the Director stated he would find this out for the Committee and explained that the translation service contract had gone through a competitive tendering process with both public and private sector providers.

Having considered the reference and report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Annual Welsh Monitoring Report for 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report, and the Update on the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy, as set out at Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report, be endorsed, subject to the following amendment, to be referred to Cabinet for their consideration: that the reference to social media accounts in the Annual Welsh Language Report 2021 – 2022 be amended to reflect that, wherever relevant, the Council's social media accounts (i.e. Twitter) were operated under separate English and Welsh formats, rather than a single bilingual one.

No.

### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the Cabinet report to meet the reporting duty to the Welsh Commissioner as part of the Welsh Language Standards and in order to accurately reflect the status of the relevant social media accounts.

364 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021/22 (REF) –

The recommendation from Cabinet of 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources and which, in summary, included:

- 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 its performance under review, consult on and then publish a report setting out the conclusions of its self-assessment once every financial year.
- A panel assessment for peer review needed to happen at least once during an election cycle and that would be determined in terms of timing by the Council's Cabinet and the Council also then had a duty to respond to the panel performance assessment as well.
- The Act also introduced a requirement to demonstrate the provision of value for money, i.e. were resources being used economically, efficiently and effectively as well as reflecting on how well the Council ran in terms of governance and what it could do better.
- The Committee were informed how this self-assessment fitted within the overall performance process of the Council, and how it fed into these various streams, i.e. the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) as well as it entailing engagement and consultation, including Directorate self-assessment (including the 'five ways of working'), internal peer review and the Annual Governance Statement and the Internal Audit Opinion, as well as the Scrutiny Committees, the public, trade unions and partners.
- The self-assessment process had helped to identify emerging areas of focus for the Council, including those areas within the remit of the Committee for the coming year i.e. workforce, skills, diversity, mental health and recruitment and retention challenges, as well as Project Zero, how the Council used its assets, changes to procurement policy, the development of an investment strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- With regard to Consulting on the Self-Assessment Findings and Performance judgements, this included the dovetailing of the Council's existing duties and the need to test the Council's well-being objectives for their relevance every year as part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- The final draft of the Self-Assessment Report would be presented to Cabinet, the Governance and Audit Committee and Full Council; from there it would inform the ADP for 2023/24 and associated Service Plans for the same period.



No.

Following the presentation of the report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- The Vice-Chair referred to the 'Year in Numbers' section of the report (Appendix A) and asked about -
  - The Council's difficulties in obtaining national benchmarking data. In response, the Director stated that there had been a move away by Data Cymru to publishing such data, but there was still some information available that the Council could benchmark against, but it also looked at using proxy measures where it could build those into the framework for performance reporting.
  - On Wellbeing Objective 1, the reference to those relevant age groups known 'not to be in education, training or employment' ('NEET'); the data provided three different sets of figures broken down by the specific age groups of school leavers involved (16-, 17- and 18-year old's respectively). He asked if it was appropriate to break these figures down in this way, due to the interlinking nature of the age groups and the impact this had on the overall figures. This query would be taken back to the relevant officers for a response.
  - On Wellbeing Objective 4, the reference to the additional area of parks, open spaces and highways land sown with wildflowers and whether the figures used were correct. The figures would be looked at again in order to ensure their accuracy.
  - Also, he discussed the possibility of using metrics from the National Survey for Wales in order to help with benchmarking, because it involved noting how well residents believed that the Council were doing as opposed to its own perception of how well it was doing with services for residents of the Vale. It was explained that the Council did use certain metrics from the National Survey for other pieces of work, and there was the potential opportunity to expand their use to this area. The Performance and Consultation teams had been asked to develop proposals for undertaking a revised public opinion survey for the Authority in in 2023, which would provide the kind of evidence and benchmarking the Councillor had suggested.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to section 7 of the report, which he felt was the most pertinent part as an Elected Member, due to its coverage of use of resources, achievements, the challenges, risks and opportunities. This gave Councillors a 'short, sharp' appreciation of where the Council was in terms of these areas, as well as offering areas of focus for Elected Members. The Councillor also referred to the data used, citing several examples, and the need to remove any potential ambiguity about what the data was informing people about, to ensure that all information was 'proofread' prior to final publishing and to ensure this data was presented as effectively as possible. It was important to make the information 'relatable' to the readers of the report (for example, to quantify the areas sown with wildflowers by the number of football pitches it would cover, or similar). It was also vital to review the use of abbreviations and 'jargon' within the report, in order to ensure greater accessibility and understanding for readers. The Director of Corporate Resources replied that the Councillor's comments would be taken on board to ensure that the information within the report was as meaningful to people as

No.

possible so they could visualise and fully comprehend the impact of the data / performance being presented.

Having considered the reference and report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Committee's views and recommendations be referred to Cabinet for their consideration prior to the final Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual Self-Assessment report being considered by Governance and Audit Committee and presented for endorsement by Full Council, namely:

- The need to revisit and review the use of language, wording, abbreviations, and 'jargon' within the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2021/22 (Appendix A);
- The need to revisit and review the use of some of the data within, and the means of 'measuring' or 'quantifying' this in order to give more context for readers of, the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2021/22 (Appendix A);
- The need to revisit and review the classification of those relevant age groups known 'not to be in education, training or employment' ('NEET') referred to separately, by their specific age group, within the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Annual Self-Assessment report 2021/22 (Appendix A), with consideration to be given on these groups being interlinked and forming part of the same overall category.

#### Reason for recommendation

For Cabinet to consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in order to help inform the Council's approach to meeting the new performance requirements.

#### 365 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2022 (DCR) –

The report, as presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy, advised Committee of the progress relating to revenue expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022:

- Emerging pressures during 2022/23 related to energy standing charges, the recent pay award proposal, general inflation particularly in areas such as school transport and cost of living and staffing pressures. Inflationary and demand pressures were being experienced across services and would need to be carefully monitored during the financial year.
- In terms of COVID-19, the majority of those schemes were coming to an end and the Council continued to make payments for the Ukrainian scheme and under the discretionary cost of living schemes. It had also started to make payments under the carers grant and the winter fuel payments.
- In terms of staff pay, the Council had budgeted for a figure of around 3% and the current pay off for was in the region of 6 to 7%, a significant increase. In

No.

terms of schools, it was estimated that the cost of of the collective Agreement pay award and teaching would be around £2.84M, and it was currently proposed that those costs would need to be met from within school balances in year.

- A number of overspends across services were referred to, such as with Social Services, Oracle and Leisure Services, with the need to utilise reserves, etc. in order to address these.
- There was a £500K target for efficiencies and services, which the Council continued to work to identify and deliver those savings.
- The Council continued to invest its cash balances and was getting relatively good returns.

Following the presentation of the report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Wood referred to the significant adverse variance for Corporate Resources, which was explained as being the result of the delivery of the Oracle scheme and the pay award. The implementation of the Oracle scheme had been complex, i.e., the transfer of payroll services, and it was hoped that this would go live in the coming months. It was confirmed that consultants had been brought in as part of this.
- On Councillor Carroll's query on any future overspend for the Oracle Scheme, it was explained that the overspend was due to the complexities in delivering the scheme and future overspend in this area could not be ruled out. However, there would be external support as well, via the Oracle provider.
- On the Vice Chair's comment on the efficiency targets, such as for Corporate Performance, which seemed to be considerably higher than could be realistically achieved (which was also echoed by the Chair), it was explained that this was a historical issue with Corporate Performance and any future efficiencies would be linked to initiatives to identify specific changes rather than a general blanket target figure, which was believed from where this issue had arisen from.
- Councillor Dr Johnson raised the following issues:
  - On how the additional grants being provided were accounted for in terms of revenue monitoring / reporting, it was explained that some of the grants were for capital projects and therefore would be reported on separately. In terms of revenue schemes, i.e. discretionary cost of living scheme funding, were reported within the relevant service area. It would be confirmed, following this meeting, whether such schemes were to be offset by a planned drawdown of reserves.
  - On the overspends experienced by the Oracle implementation project and Leisure Services, and the related issues involved, such as lessons to be learned about the management of such large-scale projects and the maintenance of service provision with an ongoing drop in income , it was recommended that additional reporting be provided on these two areas to the Committee in the near future, which was also echoed by the Chair.
- On Councillor Carroll's queries on:
  - Quantifying the impact of increasing energy costs and the factoring in the budget outturn offset by reduced usage of energy as a result of

No.

reduced office occupancy, it was explained that the Council had purchased the majority of its energy needs for this financial year in advance and the only pressure was around standing charges (approximately £300k) which was offset by reduced energy usage in corporate buildings, except for schools.

- On any potential investment / lending of monies to Thurrock Council, it was confirmed that there was no current investment.
- The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources stated that Cabinet would take on board the comments from the Scrutiny Committees on savings and how things could be done better, but would also need to balance these with the limits on making further savings without impacting services adversely. In terms of discussions on the Council's budget going forward, it was important look at how to deliver effective public services whilst supporting staff who would ultimately deliver these.

Having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2022/23 Revenue Budget be noted.

(2) T H A T the arrangements to offset the emerging overspends in 2022/23 as set out in the report be noted.

(3) T H A T the following additional reports be presented to the Committee:

- On the Oracle implementation project, contract and budget, including information on how the original budget was reached and the factors behind the current overspend.
- On the Leisure Services budget, contract and the factors behind the current overspend.

#### Reasons for recommendations

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

(3) In order for the Committee to receive further information on these areas, particularly in light of the overspends associated with these projects and services.

366 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 (DCR) –

The report was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, which provided an overview of the fourth year of progress (of the five-year plan) in delivering the Well-being Objectives and actions set by the Vale Public Services Board (PSB) in its Well-being Plan:

No.

- The Annual Report had been considered by the PSB on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and had been published on the PSB website.
- Work had now progressed to develop the new Well-being Plan and Well-being Objectives were due to be published in May 2023.
- The Council had worked as part of the PSB over the last few years with the focus being on four priority areas:
  - The Cardiff and Vale Move More Eat Well Plan (in conjunction with Public Health Wales, the lead organisation).
  - Tackling Climate Change (in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales, the joint lead on this with the Vale of Glamorgan Council).
  - Time-Banking (involving Public Health Wales, the Council's Housing Team, and Glamorgan Voluntary Services).
  - Organisational Learning Project – Improving Engagement.
- The report detailed a number of case studies on the working of PSB and its partnerships, i.e. the Well-being Assessment, Community Safety, Food Vale and the Llantwit Major Food Access Pilot Project, Age Friendly Vale, the importance of play, and giving families a flying start.
- Finally, the report looked at next steps for the PSB, the work to conclude the Well-being Assessment and the new draft Well-being Plan.

Following the presentation of the report, the subsequent comments and questions were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Hanks asked about the status of the Time-Banking scheme following the pandemic and whether it had returned to its pre-pandemic levels of activity. It was explained that there had been a hiatus for the scheme during the pandemic but following recent discussions with colleagues and partners (such as Public Health Wales) and confirmation of ongoing funding for the scheme, a new iteration of Time-Banking would be coming into being. This would be known as 'Value in the Vale' which entailed broadening the scheme in order that it could be open to all residents within the Vale (previously this had been open to the Council Housing tenants only). The scheme offered residents opportunities to volunteer and gave rewards for people undertaking such volunteering work and the new version of the scheme would aim to build on the success of the previous one. A national company was previously involved in providing such rewards, but with this iteration of the scheme the intention was for it to be more locally focused. The Council was specifically looking at opportunities to work with local businesses in order to support that kind of reward and recognition of Time-Banking.
- Councillor Loveluck-Edwards stressed the importance of expanding links between the Champion roles, Scrutiny Committees and the PSB and the importance of these groups in influencing and shaping the decisions which were taken in developing the PSB Well-being Plan, etc., going forward. The Champion roles in particular linked in with numerous key areas of the work connected with PSB such as Age Friendly Vale and the Move More Eat Well Plan. It was explained that links had been established already with the Champion roles, Cabinet portfolios, Scrutiny Committees and the PSB, i.e. the recent event around Age Friendly Vale, which involved a number of partners and organisations, and with the involvement of Councillor Loveluck-Edwards, as the Vale's Older Peoples Champion. The Councillor added that as a result

No.

of this event, further meetings would be held, and further relationships had been built. The Chair also stated it was important to build information sharing between these groups.

Having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board's Annual Report for 2021-22 and the progress partners were making in implementing the priorities set out in the Well-being Plan be noted.

(2) T H A T the intended way forward to develop the new PSB Well-being Plan 2023-28 be noted.

(3) T H A T consideration be given by Cabinet to developing further links and additional information sharing opportunities between the Champion roles, Scrutiny Committees and the Public Services Board.

(4) T H A T the report be circulated to all elected Members via email and referred to the Community Liaison Committee.

#### Reasons for recommendations

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

(3) To improve and expand upon the links between these groups.

(4) To ensure all elected Members and the Community Liaison Committee were aware of the work of the Public Services Board.

#### 367 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE 2022/23 (DCR) –

The performance report, as delivered by the Director of Corporate Resources, presented the Council's progress at quarter 1 (Q1) (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, including:

- The overall status of the Annual Delivery Plan was showing as green, and the actions attributed to all four Well-Being Objectives had a green status, with the performance measures having all received an amber status.
- The various achievements made by the Council under the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were outlined to the Committee, such as the Public Participation Strategy, a review of the Council's office accommodation, the work to deliver Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme, as well as that undertaken around the cost-of-living crisis.

No.

- In relation to the planned activities within the remit of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, 93% (214 out of 228) were attributed a Green performance status, 1 (1%) was attributed an Amber status and 6% (14) were attributed a Red status. Of the 12 measures reported, 42% (5) were attributed a Green performance status, 25% (3) were attributed an Amber status and 33% (4) were attributed Red status.
- Regarding performance exceptions related to the Committee's remit, these were in the process of being addressed, i.e. responding to the sickness absence metrics, looking at and improving the number of corporate complaints which were being dealt with within time scale and progressing the digital inclusion work.

Following the presentation of the report, the Vice-Chair referred to the general trend with such reporting whereby the Council's performance measures were not as successful as its actions, the difficulty of accurately measuring the impact the Council had with local communities, as well as the involvement / impact of other bodies (i.e., Welsh Government) or external events (such as the recent 'mini-budget'), suggesting a need to revisit performance measures. It was described to Members that the performance measures were reviewed on an annual basis and were brought to the Scrutiny Committees and the working group for their consideration as well as the targets that Council services were set to achieve those measures. The measures needed to be considered 'in the round' and to address those measures that were less successful.

Having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 commitments, as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

(2) T H A T the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the Committee be noted.

Reason for recommendations

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