

No.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 15th March, 2023.

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, S.M. Hanks, Dr. I.J. Johnson, and N.J. Wood.

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

837 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.”

838 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors H.C. Hamilton and B. Loveluck-Edwards.

839 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor Franks declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 – Corporate Asset Management Plan 2022/23 (REF) in that he had a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak only on matters relating to Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre (including grant applications) when being discussed at both Vale of Glamorgan and Dinas Powys Community Council meetings, due to being the Chair of Dinas Powys Library Committee. He therefore stayed in the meeting and spoke on Dinas Powys Library with regard to this item, but did not vote on anything in relation to libraries, etc.

Councillor Goodjohn declared an interest in Agenda Item 3 – Procurement Policy and Strategy (REF). The nature of his interest was that he was a student at Cardiff and Vale College and would likely benefit from Skills Academies and training allowances referred to in the reference/report. This was both a personal and prejudicial interest (Councillor Goodjohn spoke at the meeting on this, as a member of the public could, but then immediately withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of the item being discussed).

840 PROCUREMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 27th February, 2023 was presented by the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer for the consideration of the Committee.

This was a relatively ambitious Policy and Strategy and was the sum of a considerable amount of work undertaken across the whole of the Council. This updated Policy and Strategy had moved on from its 2018 iteration and aligned with the latest Corporate Plan and also policy initiatives from Welsh Government (WG) in terms of procurement. The new Policy and Strategy also provided an opportunity to streamline and make ‘punchier’ its policy objectives, including extra prominence to Project Zero and greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local businesses. There would also be an extra emphasis on social value and to ‘stretch’ the Council’s suppliers to help pursue the Council’s objectives, including minimum expected and preferred standards as well as seeking to differentiate between small and large companies. The Policy and Strategy had also been shared with 25 of the Council’s existing suppliers, receiving 18 replies which included feedback such as the importance of raising awareness of the Policy and Strategy.

The Vice-Chair was then invited to speak on the matter, with it being noted that he had declared a personal and prejudicial interest on this item and so would leave the meeting after he had made his representation. He raised a number of points, including the importance of the Policy and Strategy in relation to the Council’s attempts to be a Net Zero Organisation by 2030, the need for greater clarification on what constituted excessive working hours, and the need to include a commitment that suppliers paid their employees the Real Living Wage. The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer stated he would look into the Vice-Chair’s comments and suggested additional wording.

Following the Officer’s presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Haines commented on the shortage of relevant Council officers to assist with the Procurement Strategy and Policy and no forward plan, as well as the necessity of the relevant Head of Department to take these up. He also suggested that businesses and suppliers within the Vale should be given greater preferential treatment around the Council’s procurement and a greater emphasis on value for money in the Policy and Strategy were needed.
- Councillor Carroll queried what the main consideration for this Policy and Strategy was, commenting that value for money should be the ‘underpinning’ consideration for the Council’s Procurement Strategy and its objectives; in reply, the main consideration was to reflect the significant changes that had occurred since the previous iteration, i.e. carbon reduction and greater emphasis on more ethical practices. There was also the need to make the Policy and Strategy more ambitious, with a greater focus on the Policy itself and making a more overarching ‘corporate’ document as well as streamlining it to ensure greater prominence to the areas that the Councillor felt were key, such as a far more robust value for money objective as part of its 8 policy objectives. The position of this key objective would be considered and moved further up the list of objectives if appropriate.

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- Councillor Wood raised concerns about the impact of the new minimum expected and preferred standards for procurement on existing and potential suppliers for the Council, particularly smaller, local companies. He also referred to the need for clarity on when suppliers needed to achieve Net Zero. He finally queried if the Policy and Strategy was in line with those of other Welsh Local Authorities. In reply, the majority of those suppliers surveyed (from a wide cross section of businesses) had affirmed their commitment to Net Zero and social value. Due to ongoing work with Cardiff Council over areas like the Shared Service Arrangement, there had been alignment with procurement as well and the Council's suppliers had been consulted with concerning minimum standards. Due to this, there was differentiation on these standards in order to reflect the size and ability of the businesses involved to achieve these.
- The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources informed the Committee of the benefits that the Policy and Strategy could bring, citing the benefits accrued from a similar approach undertaken via Sustainable Communities for Learning through creating jobs and boosting the local economy. Work was being undertaken with SMEs in order to help them achieve Net Zero and enter into procurement arrangements with the Council. In terms of value for money, etc. the Council monitored this via outcomes, i.e. helping businesses to grow, to upskill and making sure that the Council got good quality local services or goods and being mindful of the carbon footprint at the same time.
- The Chair welcomed the new, updated Policy and Strategy, which provided a framework for the Council in terms of procurement with the addition of a list of comprehensive standards for companies that the Vale would expect to meet if they wished to become a contracted supplier, and the TOMS (Themes Outcomes Measures and Standards) list of all potential Social Value measures. The focus on Social Value in the Strategy was welcome, and for clarity the Chair explained that evaluating tenders and reporting on Carbon Reduction and Social Value was something that all Local Authorities were doing, going forwards. The inclusion of WG's overarching 'vision' for procurement helped to set the scene although it would have been more appropriate for there to have been a specific Vale of Glamorgan vision also. Performance metrics were largely absent from this Strategy, and a breakdown of the spend to Directorate Level and Category would be necessary to be able to manage procurement spend going forward. Due to spending having been devolved to the Directorates, a tighter approach to governance would be necessary to ensure transparency and compliance with Public Sector Regulations. Lastly, a plan of action should be included to cover the deliverables for the year, and as the Procurement Strategy should be a 'living' document it should be reviewed on an annual basis. It was explained that through ongoing collaboration with Cardiff Council, the Council would have access to specialist support in key areas of procurement i.e. construction. Future iterations of the Policy and Strategy would include additional data, such as breakdown by category and Directorate. An Action and Development Plan would also be included, plus a more robust contract register, as part of the shared service work with Cardiff. The Policy and Strategy would also be 'living' document(s).

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Having considered the reference and report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Cabinet be informed of the following proposed material changes recommended by the Committee regarding the Procurement Policy and Strategy, for their consideration:

- That the Policy and Strategy includes the requirement that businesses, with which the Council engages with in terms of procurement, pay the Real Living Wage.
- That the Policy and Strategy includes greater clarification on what constitutes excessive working hours.

Reason for recommendation

In order that Cabinet be informed of the proposed material changes recommended as part of their consideration of the Policy and Strategy.

841 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 27th February, 2023 was presented to the Committee by the Operational Manager (Property). The purpose of the reference/report was for the Committee to consider the updated Plan.

The Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) had been produced in consultation with officers from across the Council's departments. It set out the strategy and methodology for managing the Council's land and property assets, replacing the previous iteration of it. The Plan complemented and supported the Council's organisational framework and strategies (including Project Zero), as part of its management of the Council's land and property assets and to ensure a lean sustainable portfolio that was fit for purpose to support service delivery.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- On the Vice-Chair's query about property condition surveys, it was explained that the team had commenced a programme of resurveys, which had started with Primary Schools. The aim was that no surveys were older than five years, although some were currently older than that and due to this, they had been prioritised. Regarding those properties that were deemed as being in 'bad' condition, further information would be sought.
- Regarding the Vice-Chair's query around the Plan and making the Corporate Estate Net Zero by 2030, this would be looked at as part of the update of the Council's Carbon Management Plan/Net Zero Strategy. Emissions from the Corporate Estate had already decreased by circa 12% since the Declaration of the Climate Emergency. 18-20 Council buildings had also been installed with solar panels, etc. with Capital bids being made in relation to further LED upgrades/solar panels for buildings. The update of the Carbon Management Plan would involve a number of other internal stakeholders across Directorates, and it would not just be property/asset related.

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- Councillor Haines was concerned about the section of the report covering the Community Asset Transfers and the accuracy of the statement on the success and sustainability of the five Community Library Community Asset Transfers, citing his experiences with the library in St Athan which he said had faced a number of problems. His proposed Motion to remove this statement was voted on by the Committee, but did not pass, with other Members referring to successes in other parts of the Vale concerning library services (such as Councillor Franks' example of the success of the Dinas Powys Library, post asset transfer to the local community, Councillor Dr. Johnson also commented around the continued existence of St Athan Library after the asset transfer), with further contributions from the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources which pointed to the overall success of community libraries post asset transfer. The Operational Manager (Property) offered to be available to Councillor Haines if he wished to discuss any asset related issues concerning St Athan Library.
- On Councillor Haines' broader point (also echoed by the Chair) concerning additional support for communities and volunteers to manage assets post Community Asset Transfer, it was explained that support was available from the Council to communities in conjunction with One Voice Wales (and raised via discussions at Ystadau Cymru) where possible, particularly around more specialist areas of expertise. Welsh Government (WG) were also looking into reviewing the current Community Asset Transfer Guidance.

Having considered the reference and report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2023-2028 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

842 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE UPDATE 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 27th February, 2023 was presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy. The purpose of the reference and report was for the Committee to consider the Financial Management Code update and any comments brought back to Cabinet.

The update provided details on the progress made during 2022/23 financial year and also prospects for improvement in terms of the Code (introduced by CIPFA to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability), which reflected the good financial practice that many organisations had in place but acknowledged that there were also areas for improvement; although it was felt that the Council was already in a relatively solid position.

Other points raised included:

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- The significant changes in financial management, i.e. the new Section 151 Officer and additional Lay Members on the Governance and Audit Committee in order to help strengthen the Code and process.
- Good progress had been made in terms of the collective responsibility element of the Financial Management Code, with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) having full involvement in the 2023/24 budget preparation process.
- It was proposed to introduce an action plan and update the wording around the assessment of risk, as well as the potential for a risk management workshop and 'peer review'.

Following the report, the Vice-Chair raised a query on how, as part of the Financial Management Standards, SLT would be able to demonstrate that the services provided by the Authority were value for money. It was explained that major contracts, monitoring of budget reports and strategic procurement were discussed with SLT with the aim of reviewing financial practices and management across the Council and this would only increase over time.

Having considered the reference and report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Financial Management Code Update 2022/23 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

843 AUDIT WALES: SPRINGING FORWARD – VALE OF GLAMORGAN ASSET MANAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE PLANNING (DCR) –

The report was presented by Ian Phillips, Audit Wales, as part of the Council's annual audit work programme for 2021/22. The Auditor General for Wales undertook two reviews which looked at the strategic arrangements for managing the Council's assets and workforce. This work formed part of a national thematic review, 'Springing Forward' which had been undertaken in all Councils in Wales and which had focused on these two areas. Committee Members were asked to consider the contents of the appended reports including the Council's response (in the form of an action plan – Appendix C) with any recommendations/comments being referred to Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter, onto Cabinet for their consideration and endorsement of the proposed actions to address the recommendations. Key points raised included:

- The reviews focused on the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements in strategically managing its assets and workforce. This involved looking at how the Council strategically planned the use of its physical assets and workforce, how it monitored their use and how it reviewed and evaluated the

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effectiveness of its arrangements. This work had been undertaken within the context of the Council's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Overall, the review findings were positive, and three recommendations had been made to the Council (one on assets and two on workforce planning) to strengthen its application of the sustainable development principle in relation to both its assets and workforce planning.
- In response to the recommendations, the Director of Corporate Resources, Head of Financial Services and the Operational Manager Property and Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development had developed action plans which would be progressed by the Council. In line with the Council's performance monitoring arrangements, progress against its regulatory improvement areas would be monitored. Progress would also be monitored by Audit Wales as part of the Council's annual audit work programme.

Following the report, the Vice-Chair raised a query on Appendix C and the progress being made to strengthen the sustainable development principle within the Council. The Director of Corporate Resources stated that this had been incorporated into the two Action Plans developed as part of the recommendations from these reports, as well as Scrutiny consideration of these and having been entered into the Insight Tracker for review by the Insight Board.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the findings arising from the review of the Council's asset management (Appendix A to the report) and workforce planning arrangements (Appendix B to the report) and the response to the review findings and Audit Wales's recommendations (Appendix C to the report) be endorsed and noted.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter to Cabinet for their oversight and endorsement of the proposed Council actions (Appendix C to the report) to address the recommendations.

Reason for recommendations

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

844 SERVICE LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL' ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2023/2024 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, set out the planned service activities (as outlined in Service Plans) and associated performance targets within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee. These set out the specific areas of focus associated with the delivery of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) for 2023/2024 as aligned to its four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives. Scrutiny Committee Members were asked to review the contributions from services as relevant to the Committee's remit that would support achievement of the Council's

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Annual Delivery Plan commitments for the period 2023/24 as set out in the attached Appendices to the report.

The commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24 were reflected in 15 Service Plans which were provided, for information, in the background papers to the report. These plans showed how individual service areas would contribute to achievement and overall delivery of the Council's four Well-being Objectives and how resources would be deployed to do so, within a cross-service framework.

A series of informal Member working groups had been set up to provide feedback on presenting information around corporate performance i.e. having all 15 service plans as background papers rather than appendices.

Appendix A was referred to, outlining the planned service activities for 2023/24, as contained in the Service Plans and as they related to the remit of the Committee and Appendix B, which dealt with service performance targets for 2023/2024 relating to the remit of the Committee. These had been streamlined and detailed cross cutting actions, proposed targets with existing measures, as well as proposed indicators and those which were to be removed.

Following the report, the Vice-Chair stated there was a need for an additional performance indicator for C1V response times to both telephone calls and social media within working hours. These would help to monitor timeliness in terms of response times for residents' calls and build public confidence as well as greater community engagement with C1V. He also suggested that an additional performance indicator regarding the delivery and performance of schemes in relation to Project Zero be also added to the measures and targets as part of the planned service activities for 2023/24. The Director of Corporate Resources would take back the suggestions around C1V to the relevant officers in order to see how best these could be reported. On Project Zero, the Vice-Chair's comments would be addressed via regular performance reporting of Project Zero to Scrutiny, specific indicators within the Service Plans/ADP, as well as via the Capital Monitoring reports.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the planned service activities for 2023/24, as contained in the Service Plans and as they relate to the remit of the Committee (Appendix A to the report), be endorsed and noted.

(2) T H A T in terms of the proposed measures and service performance targets for 2023/2024 relating to the remit of the Committee (Appendix B to the report), the following be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:

- The inclusion of performance indicators regarding C1V contact times and how long it takes for C1V to respond to a query via telephone and social media within working hours. To include both average response times and the percentage of responses that are over the set response times.

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- The inclusion of a performance indicator on the performance of Project Zero.

Reasons for recommendations.

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) For Cabinet to consider the proposed additional performance indicators and in order to ensure the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Measurement Framework identifies a relevant set of performance measures and targets against which the Annual Delivery Plan can be monitored and measured during 2023/2024.

845 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2022/23 AND PROGRESS AGAINST EXTERNAL REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT (DCR) –

The performance report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, set out the Council's progress at Quarter 3 (Q3) (1st April, 2022 to 31st December, 2022) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives. The report sought Elected Members' consideration of Q3 performance results and the proposed remedial actions to address areas of identified underperformance.

All four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed a Green performance status at Q3 to reflect the good progress made to date in meeting the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2022/23. In relation to the planned activities within the remit of the Committee, the vast majority were attributed a Green performance status.

The Director also highlighted to the Committee the specific achievements within the remit of the Committee aligned to the four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, as shown on Appendix A of the report, ranging from the awarding of the Race Equality Matters Bronze Trailblazer status to the Council, through to the extension of the number of Electric Vehicle Chargers to be installed at Council facilities. Also referred to were areas of future focus and improvement ranging from the People Strategy to continued support around the cost-of-living crisis.

For ease of reference, performance exceptions aligned to the Scrutiny Committee's remit now highlighted the current status of Red performing actions identified in the previous quarter to show direction of travel, and the proposed remedial actions that had been undertaken to progress these actions.

In line with corporate performance management arrangements, consideration was given by relevant Council services to the findings contained within both local and national reports as they were published, and actions had been incorporated within the Council's Strategic Insight Board tracker (SIB) throughout the year as appropriate. Members were asked to recommend to the Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter to Cabinet, the removal of completed actions from the Insight Tracker as relevant to the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

No.

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

- The Vice-Chair referred to the impact of staffing shortages, etc., on the implementation of the Carbon Management and the LGBTQ+ Action Plans, as well as the 9.4 working days/shifts per FTE lost to sickness during Q3. It was explained that these pressures were being addressed, including work around the People Strategy and the greater use of apprenticeships, although challenges remained, i.e. the demand in the Public Sector and elsewhere for people with skill sets connected with decarbonisation and energy. In the meantime, external providers and other additional resources would be provided to help with the Carbon Management Plan, etc. Costings on the external provider would be shared with the Committee when available. On the query around the Workplace Equality Index, further updates would be coming to the Committee in due course, although the Council had seen a positive increase in its ranking under the Index recently.
- Councillor Haines raised concerns around a perceived lack of ‘warm spaces’ and similar support in rural areas of the Vale, and that for next year Public Houses and similar local community spaces should be approached in order to achieve this. It was explained that such concerns were being addressed in order to provide additional warm spaces as well as spaces for people to help tackle loneliness or isolation as well as provide advice and support regarding cost of living. The Councillor also raised concerns (echoed by Councillor Carroll) concerning the Oracle Project and its continued slippage, costs and the use of external consultants in relation to this. The Council was now working towards a ‘go-live’ date for Oracle of 1st April, 2023 and a ‘lesson learned’ or ‘reflections’ report, as previously requested by the Committee, would come forward in due course.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

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, in terms of remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the Committee, that the Committee be sighted on the ‘reflections’ document in relation to the Oracle Project once this has been implemented.

(3) T H A T the progress made to date in addressing the recommendations and improvement proposals made by the Council’s external regulators be endorsed, and it be recommended to the Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter to Cabinet, that the following completed actions from the Insight Tracker, as relevant to the remit of the Committee, be removed:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Fit for Future review (7 actions).

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To ensure the Council is effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to meet its performance requirements as outlined in the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and reflecting the requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.
- (3) To ensure the Council implements its regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals and responds appropriately to the recommendations and proposals for improvement identified through the Audit Wales' programme of local and national Local Government Studies

846 REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST JANUARY 2023 (DCR) –

The monitoring report, presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy, advised the Committee of the progress relating to revenue expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st January, 2023. Key highlights included:

- An additional budget allocation of £1.5m had been made to Schools in 2022/23 as a contribution to the additional costs of the 2022/23 pay award; this had been funded from additional Council Tax Income projected to be received in 2022/23 and therefore the Base Budget had been increased to reflect this projected income.
- Additional pressures on Neighbourhood Services, including the market forces pay uplift awarded to all waste drivers implemented due to the current shortage within the labour market, and some additional support to the Council's leisure centre provider as a result of COVID-19. This was also seen with the Council's Highways Pothole Budget, which would require a draw down on reserves, amongst other measures, as well as on the school budget (i.e. school transport), which also required some additional funding and a draw down on reserves. There was also a similar situation with Social Services.
- There was a slight reduction on the drawdown of reserves for Capital purposes, due to slippage.
- In terms of Treasury Management, the Council continued to utilise internal borrowing, thereby minimising the need to take out additional external loans. Higher interest rates meant that the Council was benefiting from some additional surpluses from its investments as well.

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

- Regarding Councillor Haines' query on the Schools Long Term Supply Scheme Overspend cited in the report, it was explained that the Learning and

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Skills Directorate operated a type of sickness insurance scheme, which schools could opt into in order to gain sickness cover for teachers and learning staff, including covering the costs of supply staff provided. In light of the overspend this would be reviewed.

- On Councillor Haines' follow up questions regarding the Liaison and Engagement Officer Temporary Posts and the potential risks of lending to other Local Authorities (LAs), firstly it was explained that the Liaison and Engagement Officer posts had been funded initially by Welsh Government (WG) to support attendance in schools. Due to the fall off of WG funding, some draw down of reserves had been required to fund these posts. On lending to other LAs, it was explained that there was a level of legal protection and underwriting on any amounts loaned by the Council and the Council also had a list of those LAs that it would not lend to due to their circumstances.
- On the Chair's query on Teachers' pay negotiations and whether WG would help to cover any wage increases, the feedback from the relevant trade unions was that this needed to be fully funded by WG, which was also reflected in a recent WG statement.
- Regarding Councillor Dr. Johnson's ongoing concerns on the additional payment to leisure centres as a result of the leisure services contract, it was explained that further details and clarity would be provided to the Committee on this and the recommended additional report on the leisure services contract would also be chased up.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

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 projected overspends in 2022/23, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the revised 2022/23 Revenue Budget of £290.574m reflecting an increase of £1.5m for the Delegated Schools Budget to be funded from additional Council Tax Income, be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

847 CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST JANUARY 2023 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Operational Manager – Accountancy, provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1st April, 2022 to 31st January, 2023, the use of Delegated Authority, Emergency Powers and any requested changes to the 2022/23 and future years' Capital Programme, within the remit of the Committee, for Members' consideration. Key points included:

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- Capital schemes were facing continued challenges due to significant cost increases and pressures, which could necessitate scheme re-engineering or re-tendering, resulting in delays to projects. Project officers were also reporting long lead times on the delivery of materials and a shortage of skilled staff in some areas.
- The report noted the current approved Programme of £88.2m but it was important to note that this was unlikely to be delivered and slippage was requested of £8m.
- There was also a new section in the report that detailed progress of schemes completed, in progress and on target for completion, with the majority having been completed or on target for completion, i.e. Barry Library Makerspace.
- Requests to amend the Capital Programme were also included in the report i.e. carry forwards or reprofiling against the Housing Improvement Program and the new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Llandow.

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

- The Vice-Chair commented on the slippage required as part of the Capital Programme and the need to be aware of slippage much sooner in order to tackle this in a much timelier manner. It was explained that the position on slippage was something that Finance was constantly trying to address and had attempted to provide as accurate a profile as possible on. It was also important to provide assurance to officers that they could still deliver a scheme despite slippage and that funding for these could be carried forward. Also, some schemes could also hit the ledger quickly. On his follow up question on the £909k slippage request from Environment and Housing in relation to energy efficiency within the Housing Improvement Programme and if this was part of budgetary considerations, a more detailed answer would be sought and shared with the Committee in due course.
- On Councillor Haines' question about high level glazing at Penarth Leisure Centre being carried out during the Winter period as part of slippage, this would be looked into and a response provided to the Committee.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on delivering the 2022/23 Capital Programme, within the remit of the Committee, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority within the remit of the Committee, as set out in the report, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers within the remit of the Committee, as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be noted.
- (4) T H A T the changes to the 2022/23 and future years' Capital Programme within the remit of the Committee, as set out in the report, be noted.

No.

Reason for recommendations

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

848 VALE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD DRAFT WELLBEING PLAN 2023 -28 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, detailed how the Public Services Board (PSB) had developed its draft Well-being Plan (which had been informed by the Well-being Assessment published in 2022 and through engagement), for Members' consideration.

The report provided a brief explanation of the content of the draft Plan, including the objectives, priority workstreams and actions (19 steps).

The PSB had consulted on the draft Well-being Plan for 12 weeks from November 2022 to January 2023. The report provided an overview of the comments received by consultation respondents and detailed the subsequent changes made to the Plan.

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

- Councillor Dr. Johnson queried what steps were being taken to address the feedback from Barry Town Council and Welsh Government (WG), as part of the consultation, to ensure greater recognition within the Draft Well-Being Plan to the Welsh Language and Culture and to help Wales to have a “vibrant culture and a thriving Welsh Language”. It was explained that a section had been added to the report/Plan in order to address and support these areas, i.e. looking at greater opportunities to provide age friendly support, well-being and cost of living advice through the medium of Welsh, establishing greater links with Welsh speaking communities in the Vale and supporting some of the Net Zero ambitions within the Plan from a cultural perspective.
- On the Chair's query on the level of response and numbers of consultees that responded to the consultation on the Plan, it was explained that the level of response was as expected; ideally this would have been higher but, this was a consultation on a finalised version of a quite technical document and there had been considerable engagement undertaken previously as part of developing the Plan: ranging from the Vale's Youth Council through to WG. Post consultation, PSB partners would also come along to Scrutiny in order to present the work they undertook as part of the Plan for the Committee to be aware and to consider.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report, the updated draft Well-being Plan (Appendix A), the consultation feedback report (Appendix B) and the Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix C) be noted.

No.

Reason for recommendation

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

849 3RD QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING AND
UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2022/2023 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2022/23:

- 2021-22 Uncompleted Recommendation Tracking (Appendix A);
- 1st Quarter April – June 2022 (Appendix B);
- 3rd Quarter October – December 2022 (Appendix C); and
- Updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2022/23 (Appendix D).

Following the presentation of the report:

- The Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Dr. Johnson raised concerns around the length of current meetings due to the size of the agendas concerned and to look at streamlining these and/or to have more special or extraordinary meetings.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson stated there should be a greater prioritisation of reports requested by the Committee, citing the reports the Committee had asked for in relation to Oracle and Leisure Services, which the Committee were still waiting on. Also, the sheer volume of reporting and related paperwork meant Members potentially could not properly scrutinise the documents concerned, a point echoed by Councillor Haines on his concerns around due diligence for agenda items, due to the sheer size and volume of the reports and the overall meeting agendas.
- The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer would take back the above comments, etc. to the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A to C to the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2022/23, attached at Appendix D to the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

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