

No.

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

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

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

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

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

Also present: Councillors A. Asbrey, R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), N.C. Thomas and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### 234 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.”

### 235 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor S.J. Haines.

### 236 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### 237 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 238 Q4 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT 2022/2023 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023 was presented by the Operational Manager Employee Services. The key takeaways from the reference / appended report were:

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- The report had taken into account the feedback provided by this Committee previously, and had incorporated their suggestions i.e. moving the key datasets from the main body of the report into the report appendices instead.
- Sickness levels had increased, compared to 2021/2022, due in part to the legacy of the Covid pandemic, but also other emerging issues, such as the cost-of-living crisis and staff having to remain on sickness absence due to delays in NHS appointments and treatments. These had proved to be a challenge in terms of managing sickness absences at a corporate level.
- The importance of the work undertaken by the Council's Occupational Health team (OH) was underlined to the Committee, in terms of their support to staff on both short- and long-term sickness absence and the timeliness in them seeing staff on sickness absence (on average staff were seen 4-5 weeks following making an appointment which was a considerably shorter timeframe than other Local Authorities). The OH Team also assisted in assessing staff BMI and Cholesterol levels as well as with the annual Flu vaccination. A new system to help OH manage appointments, etc. was being implemented, to go live possibly in the Autumn.
- The work of the Employee Assistance Programme, whereby staff got access to external support as needed concerning sickness and wellbeing; the current contract would be coming to an end shortly, with other providers being looked at.
- Looking forward, the projected sickness absence figures for Quarter 1 appeared to be more positive, with a reduction in the numbers concerned. Also, there would be an emphasis on the Council's recruitment and retention policies and the People Strategy to help improve wellbeing and health in the Council's workplaces in order for the Council to be more proactive and taking more preventative measures.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, the following comments and questions were raised by the Committee and others:

- On Councillor Carroll's concerns on the sickness absence figures and the wording used in some parts of the report i.e. concerning 'presenteeism' and attendance in the office workspace, it was explained that the term 'presenteeism' referred to staff going into the office (or working online) when they were ill, and therefore should be reporting as sick and this had been raised in previous staff surveys. This could have an impact on sickness reporting as well. It was important for the Council's Human Resources (HR) Team to support staff to help them recuperate. The use of 'hybrid' working was not a directive nor a mandate to be applied across the Council but rather to help Managers and staff have options on the best, most flexible way of working whenever possible or practicable. On his follow up query around the significant increase in days lost within certain non-frontline Directorates, it was explained that such increases could be the result of relatively small numbers of staff being on sickness absence which could disproportionately affect the figures. These numbers reflected staff who were on sickness absence for a variety of reasons, including traumatic bereavements.

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- On the query raised on the take up of staff on sickness absence due to non-work-related stress for support from OH (whom they were automatically referred to), it was explained that this was mandatory for all staff on long term sickness absence, who would attend an initial appointment with OH and would receive help and advice, as well as a possible referral to external sources of support and services.
- Councillor Hanks asked if staff remained free to come into the Council offices to work on a regular basis, which was confirmed as being the case and the Hybrid Working Policy supported this as well as other alternatives in order to help combat loneliness or isolation amongst staff.
- Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the improved format of the report, following previous suggestions made by the Committee but raised an issue around the numbering used in relation to pie charts, etc. used as well as their key when representing sickness absence data. This would be looked into for future reporting.
- On the Councillor's follow up queries around comparative data with other Local Authorities and viral infections / sickness in schools, work was being undertaken in conjunction with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and with Data Cymru Wales to try to establish greater clarity and nuance with such data comparisons, particularly in relation to services provided which varied by Council in terms of being in house or outsourced. Data varied also by each Authority's sickness policy or absence counting (i.e. the inclusion of COVID-19 sickness or not). On schools and viral infections / sickness levels of absence, this could be a useful area to develop data to see where such trends were occurring.
- Councillor Wood raised a number of queries. Firstly, on sign off for sickness absence by a GP, it was explained that Council staff could self-certify for the first 7 days of absence. After that period, staff would be obligated to go to their GP to get advice and a statement of fitness for work. The details on this form would help inform future sickness data i.e. reason for sickness. On the next steps that would be taken to support a sick member of staff (i.e. via OH), it was explained that the Council would offer support tailored to staff needs, including counselling if required and in conjunction with other medical professionals, i.e. their GP. The Councillor stressed the importance of getting staff the help they needed to recover and to ultimately return back to work. On the process and structure to help achieve this recovery and support, it was explained that line managers and HR Business Partners worked closely in addressing sickness absences and keeping in touch with the staff concerned under a robust process, which was continuously improved. Added to this, OH could offer staff a physician's certificate following sickness which could help staff come back to the workplace quicker and with the necessary adjustments in place as well as under a phased return.
- The Chair stated that it was important that the Council took a preventative approach to staff health and wellbeing as much as possible and further clarity be provided concerning the average working days lost in relation to the size of the Council team connected to, and impacted by, this absence.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report, subsequently

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RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T both the Cabinet reference and appended Cabinet report be noted.
- (2) T H A T for future reporting of sickness absence there is greater clarity on the numbering used in relation to pie charts, etc used as well as their key when representing sickness absence data. Also, further clarity be provided concerning the average working days lost in relation to the size of the team connected to, and impacted by, this absence.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the Cabinet reference, appended report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To help provide greater clarity for Committee members when considering future sickness reporting and data.

239 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 was presented by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer.

It was outlined to Committee that the Council had seen a number of challenges over the 2022/23 period which included a wide range of pressures placed on the Council. However, it had also seen a generally positive year end position. There had been significant demand pressures with regard to child placements, especially post Covid and due to the complexity and frequency of legal proceedings as well as the actual placement costs themselves. There had also been additional pay costs associated with HGV drivers due to the shortage of such drivers across Wales and the UK, as well as leisure contract costs and the impact of higher energy costs and inflation. Other challenges had been around the state of the roads and highways in the Vale due to the weather, including potholes and patching up highways as well as issues around school transport with energy and inflation costs.

On a more positive note, there had been some favourable variances, with additional investment income due to increased bank rates. The surplus reserves and balances invested by the Council helped to provide a better return than they had had for some time. A lot of work had been done around recovery of Council Tax over the last couple of months. Generally, across budgets, there had been additional pay cost pressures but those had been offset, for example, by vacant posts and underspends in service budgets. The Council had also benefitted from what might be called a 'windfall' due to a one-off adjustment of Social Services accounting.

The year end position indicated an overall break-even position with some transfers from reserves and with a small surplus of approximately £1.89m. £200k had

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been set aside for Education pressures and improvements, with £850k to support Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and mainstream schools which would help schools in balancing their budgets in 2023/24. Money had also been set aside for Neighbourhood Services, as well as approximately £120k to support implementation of road safety schemes on the A48.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, the Committee made a number of comments and raised a number of questions including:

- Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the need for a presentation prior to future meetings of the Committee concerning closure of accounts in order to give Members more time to consider the information, the position on school reserves concerning how much was Welsh Government (WG) money and that drawn down from or reallocated from reserves, and also around details concerning capital expenditure versus drawdowns from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It was explained that the school balances as detailed in the appendix to the report had seen over a period of time balances gradually coming down, however during the pandemic a need for extra resources meant these had started to grow again to the current level which they were as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022, in excess of £12m. It was expected that schools would not run the balances down to the level which they planned for in 2022/23. However, due to key pressures such as meeting the costs around teachers' pay awards, the planned reduction in reserves of approximately £6m had actually taken place. Regarding the HRA, the balances had been built up to support the Capital Programme and were expected to be not run down as previously expected, with the expectation that those reserves would now come down in the new financial year.
- On Councillor Carroll's query concerning the favourable variance of £1.89m and whether this variance was seen across the whole of the Revenue Budget, it was explained that yes, this was an overall positive variance and was not a profit per se.
- The Vice-Chair noted the positive work that had recently been done with the Corporate Performance team through engaging with young people through the School Council network including talking about funding that would be available because of the favourable variance and including them in the decision-making process around allocating this. He also commented on the financial pressures on schools at this time and due to the ongoing issues around this, this was one of the top issues and priorities on the risk register. He also applauded the work being undertaken in terms of financial management and good support from the Investment Team as this helped contribute to improve people's lives within the Vale of Glamorgan due to good finances for the Local Authority.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report, subsequently

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RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the reference, appended report and the financial measures taken and proposed be noted.
- (2) T H A T the allocation of the overall Council surplus be noted.

Reason for recommendations

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

240 CAPITAL CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 was presented to the Committee by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer, the purpose of which was to inform the Committee of the provisional financial position of the Council's Capital Programme for the 2022/23 financial year, following the completion of the relevant accounts. The key points of the reference and report, raised by the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer included the following.

There had been less movement seen in terms of outturn at year end compared to other previous quarters, which was a positive sign. However, some schemes have had to be added late in the year (totalling £2.019m), with the current adjusted programme of £82.468m and capital expenditure during the year of £80.791m.

Despite capital schemes facing continued challenges due to a number of issues, including significant cost increases and shortages of resources, the 2022/23 Capital Programme outturn was £80.791m and 98% of the Programme had been implemented before the end of the financial year.

A net slippage of £715k had required approval by Emergency Powers into the 2023/24 Capital Programme.

In terms of General Capital Funding, Capital expenditure in the year was sufficient to cover the full allocation of the supported borrowing allocation from Welsh Government (WG), which was positive news for the Council.

Further funding streams were utilised, i.e. £46m of WG grant Section 106 funding.

Also of note was the £23.3m drawn down from reserves or funded through a revenue contribution into capital and capital receipts received valued at approximately £2.5m which helped contribute to the balance of capital receipts (around £10m) for year end.

Although there remained slippage in the Capital Programme, it was important to focus on the substantial amount of work that had been delivered covering schools, social services, housing and neighbourhood services.

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Following the reference, Councillor Franks raised a number of questions and concerns regarding the capital accounts, including the £1.6m underspend for local transport, expenditure on highway improvements, as well as underspends for the Atlantic Estate and fleet management. These were addressed primarily by the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer. On local transport, it was explained that despite slippage here, significant progress had been made i.e. the completion of the transport hub next to the Council's Docks Offices. The Leader cited the example of schools, where asset renewal work would often be carried out in in school holidays and cut across financial years (as with other parts of the capital programme such as transport), with the 31<sup>st</sup> March end point being somewhat of an artificial point in the year. In terms of highway improvements, the Atlantic Estate and fleet management expenditure / underspends, these would be looked into and the information shared with Councillor Franks and the rest of the Committee outside of the meeting.

The Vice-Chair reminded Members that more detailed questions could be submitted prior to the meeting for officers to address at the meeting itself or specific officers could be invited in order to address the more specific and technical questions Members may have at the meeting. He also cited the considerable amount of work and investment injected into the Vale of Glamorgan area through the Capital Programme. This was echoed by the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, who outlined her recent visits to a number of successful schemes that had been delivered as part of the Capital Programme, i.e. the Resource Recovery Facility, Hayeswood Road housing development, etc. She also stated that the Council was also being clear and transparent on where slippages were occurring (as set out in the appended report to this reference).

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report, subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the reference and appended report (including the year-end capital position for financial year 2022/23, the additional scheme budgets, the summary position of the changes in the Capital Programme by directorate from approval at Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, and the Emergency Power approved in respect of the slippage as set out in the appendices to the report) be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

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

#### 241 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022/23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 was presented to the Committee by the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer, the purpose of which was to present

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the annual review report on Treasury Management 2022/23. The key points of the reference / report included the following.

Treasury Management was a well-regulated area of the Council's activities and were obliged to report on its outturn on an annual basis.

The appended report covered a number of broad themes, such as borrowing and investment, as part of ensuring that the Council finances were invested as safely and cautiously as possible.

Due to high interest rates, investment returns for the Council had increased significantly. Due to higher rates, the Council had taken a more proactive approach with investment and having a more detailed working knowledge of cashflow positions.

The investment portfolio was detailed in the report, with just under £94m being out for investment. Also, all the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year has complied with the limits laid out in the strategy.

Following the reference, and regarding Councillor Dr. Johnson's query on 'shopping around' for better deals in terms of investments and any potential additional costs with maturing debt, a table in the appended report set out where the investment portfolio was invested at year end. It was felt that interest rates would improve from the Bank of England's base rate of 5%. The Council was bound by Codes of Practice which ensured that in terms of investment, money was returned before consideration of yield and return and maintaining a low risk. The Council was also supported by external advisers to help ensure that the Council placed its money in the best investments possible. On maturing debt and the associated costs, where the Council had been refinancing historical debt it was found that the average cost of borrowing had come down, until the recent increase in rates; due to this, the Council would be taking advice on this area going forward. Regarding the capital financing requirement, it was explained that external borrowing was down this year for a variety of reasons, including internal borrowing, lower than expected spend through slippage, etc. Due to the current volatility in this area, this was under constant review in order to amend the Council's strategy if and when required.

On Councillor Carroll's question on whether the Council had undertaken modelling on a variety of different scenarios when it comes to the base rate, in order that it was best placed to respond accordingly, it was explained that through its meetings with treasury advisors, the Council was able to look at various scenarios, and discuss what was likely to happen in the market going forward, as well as how the Council could operate in such circumstances. Although market commentators were expecting interest rates to be lower, Councillor Carroll caveated this by saying that there was no guarantee that this would happen, and the Council needed to be prepared accordingly.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and appended report, subsequently



No.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T both the reference and appended Annual Report on Treasury Management 2022/23 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

242 DRAFT DIGITAL STRATEGY (REF) –

The reference and appended report from Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, the purpose of which was to provide Committee Members with an overview of work undertaken to develop a new draft Digital Strategy and as part of the consultation process on this strategy before adoption.

The Director of Corporate Resources outlined to Committee the background to the Digital Strategy, the impact of Covid i.e. greater use of digital technology as well as outlining the Strategy itself. The Digital Strategy was attached at Appendix A, which outlined the strategic context for the work, its connections with the previous Digital Strategy and developments of recent years notably the digital maturity assessment undertaken by the Council in 2021. The Strategy took on the experience and lessons arising from the Covid pandemic and linked this work in with the overall wellbeing objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan. It was stressed that this was not a technical document but rather more of an outline for the future way of working for the organisation, setting out the vision of transforming the Council's digital culture, based around four themes each of which had a number of commitments associated with each of them, i.e. community and involvement, organisation and process, digital people and skills as well as data and insight. Also set out were the series of actions set out within three distinct timelines i.e. one year activities, two to three year and finally within a five year time horizon, as well as setting out a series of indicators in terms of how the performance would be monitored and setting out a series of success factors.

The Strategy was the sum of a collaborative approach with various external agencies as well as staff within the Vale of Glamorgan Council itself. The draft Strategy would be consulted upon which would launch within the next couple of weeks and would run through until September, with feedback being invited from residents, users of Council services both online and those who use other services such as telephone services within the Council. The consultation would also include Council members of staff and Committee Members. The consultation would also be undertaken with the Public Services Board partners, the Equalities Consultative Forum and the various diversity networks and Member Champions within the Council.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, a number of members of the Committee raised the following queries or comments.

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Councillor Carroll felt that the Strategy was relatively unambitious with many of the goals and techniques described not being sufficiently innovative i.e. areas such as web analytics, social media etc were already in use and were considered relatively standard for most organisations. He also referred to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) which was only mentioned once within the Strategy, quite vaguely, and it was important that the Strategy included a greater emphasis on the use of new innovative technology such as AI and other related automated processes which could help to transform the Council's services. The Director of Corporate Resources stated that he could look into raising the prominence of automated processes such as AI within the draft Strategy although it was noted that automation was spoken about throughout the Strategy to help support process efficiency and improvements to services within the Council.

Councillor Dr. Johnson referred to the reduction in social media posts produced by the Council and he asked where the decision making actually lay with this part of the Strategy. The Councillor also asked whether this Strategy differed from those of other similar organisations as well as adding that he felt that the Strategy was quite broad and did not necessarily provide specific details around performance indicators etc. It was explained that although other public organisations' Digital Strategies may differ from that of the Council's, there were also similarities due to the Council providing the same or similar services to many other local authorities. He stated this was more a cultural document compared to some other local authorities due to the need to balance the development of the organisation in terms of embracing digital technology and to support the way that the Council worked in other areas. In terms of specific performance targets or indicators as part of performance monitoring, this would be incorporated into future reporting on the Strategy to the Committee and elsewhere in due course. In terms of the Social Media Strategy to reduce the individual number of posts, this had been looked at in terms of the influence, reach and impact that such posts had. Due to this, the Council was taking a new and different approach in order to have fewer social media posts but with content that was presented in a much more engaging way in order to increase their reach and thereby increase the visibility and impact of Council information online. Social media was monitored on a daily basis in order to assess what was performing well and what required tweaking or improving in order to reach as many Vale residents as possible. The Councillor added that it was important that for online digital services that Welsh language users' experience be tested in order to ensure the accessibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website to both Welsh as well as English speakers as part of the new Strategy. This would help to ensure that content was more attuned to the cultural and other different aspects between the Welsh and English mediums.

Councillor Burnett, Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, with permission to speak, stressed that as part of the Strategy the inclusivity of Council services would be considered to ensure that people that could not or did not want to use digital technology could still access Council services adequately. This would also be considered as part of the consultation process. The Digital Strategy would take an evidence-based approach in order to know exactly what the experience of using such services for the Vale's residents entailed, how the services performed and how these could be benchmarked against other services or similar authorities. Also, it was important to encourage

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and enable staff within the Vale of Glamorgan Council to be able to fully realise the potential of using digital technology in their work in order to help improve the Council's processes so that the Council was more efficient, more effective and more streamlined, which was also included within the Strategy. It was vital that as many people from as many backgrounds as possible within the Vale of Glamorgan Council and within the broader Vale of Glamorgan area engaged in the consultation in order for the Council to find the right way forward for its Digital Strategy.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the reference and the appended report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the following comments from the Committee be included as part of the consultation process:

- There should be a greater emphasis on the use of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related automated processes as part of the new Strategy.
- That Welsh Language user experience testing be undertaken in order to ensure the accessibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website to both Welsh as well as English speakers as part of the new Strategy.

#### Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the Committee's comments are included in the consultation process, as part of the consideration by Cabinet of this process and proposed changes to the Draft Digital Strategy in order that the Council adopts a Digital Strategy to provide the framework for digital development in the future.

#### 243 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2022-23 (REF) –

The reference and appended report from Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, the purpose of which was to seek approval for the Council's Annual Welsh Monitoring Report and update on the five year promotion strategy.

The report served two key purposes, firstly demonstrating compliance with the 174 Welsh Language Standards that the Council was required to work towards and secondly the requirement to produce a five-year promotion strategy for the Welsh Language. These areas were covered in their respective appendices to the report (A and B).

The Director of Corporate Resources added that there was a significant amount of working in partnership with other bodies in order to achieve the promotion of the Welsh Language, for example, with Menter Bro Morgannwg.

Following the presentation of the reference and appended report, a number of Committee Members raised the following comments or queries.

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Councillor Dr. Johnson stated that the Council should still be looking at the way its monitoring report was published, and the format used, with the need for further case studies and user experiences incorporated into it. This was particularly pertinent in providing a greater understanding of what the experiences were for Welsh learners within the Council and for users of Council services through the medium of Welsh language. The Councillor also asked about the Cysgeir software which the Council used for Welsh words and phrases and which did not appear to be on his Council laptop. The Director of Corporate Resources stated that as one of the actions of the Digital Strategy all Elected Members would have all relevant software installed on their laptops including the Cysgeir software following the end of the consultation on the Digital Strategy. He also added that going forward more information on user experiences and case studies would be used in order to capture the experiences of Welsh Language speakers. The Committee were made aware that certain parts of the report had to be quite prescriptive in terms of the format used, and in order to illustrate the progress made against the relevant actions. However, there was still some flexibility in terms of how this was presented and to bring those related activities to life. This would be incorporated into future reporting on this item.

The Chair raised the concern that although all pupils have to study Welsh to GCSE level, there was a limited offer of provision for pupils to have the option to do this at A Level in Mainstream English Language Comprehensive Schools due to a lack of resources. This lack of resources would continue if the Council did not find a way to break the cycle and offer Welsh education at the higher level in all schools in order to create more Welsh Language teachers for the future. The Chair appreciated that this may be challenging due to resourcing issues, but it should be an aspiration for schools to try to implement. The Director of Corporate Resources stated that he would share the Chair's feedback with colleagues in Learning and Skills for when they were putting the update together for the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

Committee having considered the reference and appended report subsequently

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report for 2022/23 (Appendix 1) and Update on the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy (Appendix 2) be endorsed.

Reason for recommendation

To allow the Council to meet its reporting duty to the Welsh Commissioner as part of the Welsh Language Standards.

244 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 (CX) –

The purpose of the report was to present to Committee an overview of the fifth year of progress in delivering the Well-being Objectives and actions set by the Vale Public Services Board (PSB) in its Well-being Plan 2018-2023.

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The PSB launched its first Well-being Plan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018. Since its launch partners had been working to progress the Well-being Objectives set out in the Plan and the actions aligned to those Objectives.

To capture the progress made in the fifth and final year of the Well-being Plan the PSB produced an Annual Report in the form of an online report using Microsoft Sway. The Annual Report gave an overview of the progress that had been made by partners in implementing the four Well-being Objectives and activities detailed in the Plan and against the PSB's priority workstreams. The Annual Report was considered by the PSB on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023 and was available on the PSB website.

Work was now progressing to deliver the new Well-being Plan 2023-28 and Well-being Objectives that were signed off and published in May 2023, with the report outlining the links between the new Objectives/Plan and that of the old.

The report also provided further insight into the achievements of the Well-being Plan by sharing various case studies, including its work around the cost-of-living crisis, Food Vale Partnership, Amplifying Prevention, Age Friendly Vale, etc.

Also outlined was the response to the suggestions made by the Committee previously concerning specific areas of the Plan to be scrutinised by various Committees, i.e. the work around Age Friendly Vale to be reported to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

Following the presentation of the report Councillor Hanks wished to share with the Committee her endorsement and support of the report and the excellent work done by the PSB.

Councillor Dr. Johnson suggested that the excellent work undertaken by the PSB and the excellent response to the Value in the Vale (VIV) project should be something that should be considered by one of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. It was explained that a report on such work would likely be scrutinised by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee due to its origins and links to a scheme for Council housing tenants. On the Councillor's query regarding issues accessing the embedded pages contained within the report, it was explained that this could be to do with the report being reproduced for inclusion in the meeting's papers and that there was a link to the online version contained in the report. This would be considered for future reporting.

The Chair suggested that for future meetings PSB partners should be invited to address the Committee regarding the relevant parts of their work and that the Vale of Glamorgan Council link in with Cardiff Metropolitan University concerning the Circular Economy Community Initiative in order to help the PSB address key areas around decarbonisation issues and social values and to look at having Circular Economy 'Champions' to help drive this.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

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RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the review of the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) Annual Report for 2022/23 and the progress partners made in delivering the priorities set out in the Wellbeing Plan be noted.
- (2) T H A T for future meetings PSB partners be invited to address the Committee regarding relevant parts of their work.
- (3) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan PSB link in with Cardiff Metropolitan University concerning the Circular Economy Community Initiative.
- (4) T H A T this report be circulated to all Elected Members and Members of the Equality and Consultative Forum via e-mail and referred to the Community Liaison Committee and Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) In order for the Committee to develop further links with PSB partners and to get a further insight into their work.
- (3) To ensure that the PSB develops further links in order to help the PSB address key areas around decarbonisation issues and social values.
- (4) To ensure all Elected Members, members of the Equality Consultative Forum, Community Liaison Committee and the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee are aware of the work of the PSB.

245 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE 2022/23 (DCR) –

The purpose of the report, as outlined to the Committee by the Director of Corporate Resources, was to present Quarter 4 (Q4) performance results for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 in delivering the 2022/23 Annual Delivery Plan commitments as aligned to the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, for the Committee's consideration and comment.

The performance report provided a 'snapshot' of the progress at Quarter 4 (1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023) towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) commitments as aligned to the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The appended presentation to the report was intended to provide Members with an overview of end of year performance earlier in the calendar year. This was ahead of the more detailed Self-Assessment 2022/23. This would be reported to Cabinet and Full Council prior to publication in November 2023.

No.

All 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed a Green performance status at Q4 to reflect the good progress made to date in meeting the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2022/23.

For ease of reference, performance exceptions aligned to the Scrutiny Committee's remit highlighted the current status of Red performing actions identified in previous quarters to show direction of travel at end of year. This would enable Members to quickly gauge whether proposed remedial actions had been undertaken in year to progress those actions. This approach of reporting exceptions reflected the changes requested by Elected Members on performance monitoring of the Annual Delivery Plan.

Following the presentation of the report, Councillor Dr Johnson referred to the appended exception reporting, which contained quite a few areas that needed further resolution, i.e. around the voluntary sector and minority groups. It was explained that there had been an increase in the number of red 'exceptions' in areas such as the voluntary sector and equalities, but a significant amount of work was already underway in order to address these areas. Also, other events and issues had overtaken these priorities which needed to be addressed, i.e. the cost of living crisis.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Quarter 4 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.

Reasons for recommendations

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

246 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED - T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

247 MINUTES –

**(Urgent by reason that it is important that Members have an opportunity to consider these minutes prior to the Summer recess and in order to consider/ensure their accuracy in a timely manner)**

No.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023 be approved as a correct record.