

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

**Cabinet Meeting: 6 March, 2017**

### **Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education**

## **Welsh Government National Development Framework Consultation: Call for Evidence and Projects**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report has been prepared to advise Cabinet of the Welsh Government's Consultation in respect of the proposed National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales. The consultation calls for evidence and projects which will help inform the NDF and is looking specifically for evidence in respect of the role and scope of the NDF, national issues that could be addressed in the NDF and the NDFs role in shaping regional Strategic Development Plans and local authority Local Development Plans.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet endorses the report as the Council's formal response to the Welsh Government's consultation and Call for Evidence and Projects on the NDF.
2. That the use of Article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision on procedure) be authorised in respect of the response to Welsh Government's call for evidence.

### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To obtain Cabinet's endorsement of the response submitted to the Welsh Government consultation and Call for Evidence and Projects on the NDF.
2. To ensure a response is sent in respect of the call for evidence prior to the closing date of 7th March 2017.

### **Background**

2. The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 provides a statutory requirement for the Welsh Ministers to produce and keep up-to-date a National Development Framework (NDF), which will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan.
3. The NDF will fulfil a number of roles, including setting out the Welsh Government's land use priorities and providing a national land use framework for Strategic and Local Development Plans.

4. The NDF will concentrate on development and land use issues of national significance which the planning system is able to influence and deliver. The process of approving the NDF will include a statutory twelve week public consultation period and the NDF in line with other development plans will have a fixed time period at the end of which it will cease to have effect as a development plan.
5. In future, the development plan system will comprise the all-Wales NDF, any regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and at the local level Local Development Plans (LDPs). SDPs are unlikely to be prepared across the whole of Wales, meaning that some parts of Wales will have three tiers of development plans and others two.
6. The development planning system will ensure that issues are considered at the most appropriate level. This is an important principle and will ensure that plans deal with those issues that they can best influence. All plans are important and it is the alignment of plans at all levels, working together, that will help achieve national goals.
7. The Planning Directorate of Welsh Government has begun work on the production of a National Development Framework (NDF). The NDF will set out a 20 year land use framework for Wales and will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan.
8. The NDF will:
  - Set out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system - nationally, regionally and locally - can deliver it.
  - Provide direction for Strategic and Local Development Plans and support the determination of Developments of National Significance.
  - Sit alongside Planning Policy Wales, which sets out the Welsh Government's planning policies and will continue to provide the context for land use planning.
  - Support national economic, transport, environmental, housing, energy and cultural strategies and ensure they can be delivered through the planning system.
  - Be reviewed every 5 years.
9. The NDF will include spatial planning policies and will identify national projects. The Welsh Government is therefore interested to receive evidence that can help inform the development of the policies and details of projects that can help Wales meet its national goals. The Welsh Government's Call for Evidence and Projects is therefore an opportunity to provide information to inform the NDF. Responses to the Welsh Government consultation on the NDF should be received by the 7th March 2017. As a consequence recommendation 2 seeks the use of the Urgency Procedure to allow comments to be submitted within the timescale.

## **Relevant Issues and Options**

10. Like the Wales Spatial Plan before, the NDF will set out the Welsh Government's land use priorities and provide a national land use framework for Strategic and Local Development Plans. The NDF will include spatial planning policies and will identify nationally significant projects which contribute to the economic, social and environmental enhancement of Wales.
11. While projects promoted and ultimately included within a NDF will be of national significance, they will clearly have local implications which will need to be

addressed and reconciled. It is inevitable that the development of NDF projects will need to be reflected in regional or local policy documents such as LDPs. Such inclusion is invariably reliant upon strong and appropriate evidences bases and NDF projects should therefore be underwritten by appropriate evidence which is available to the local authorities in whose administrative area they fall.

12. Given the significance of the NDF therefore it is imperative that projects which are of direct relevance and impact upon the Vale of Glamorgan and indeed the Cardiff Capital City Region are fully represented and the following projects are considered to warrant submission as a part of the Welsh Government's call for evidence.

### **Nationally Significant Projects**

13. The continued funding and support of the following nationally significant projects are considered to be essential for the continued growth and prosperity of Wales.

### **Cardiff Capital Region Metro**

14. A metro system will bring benefits to passengers, link communities and provide substantial economic benefits to both the region and the rest of Wales. Comprising elements of an electrified rail system; integrated transport hubs; park and ride facilities; new light rail and/or bus rapid transit routes and active travel interventions, a metro will have positive social, economic and environmental effects and help to shape the region's identity and boost the Welsh economy.
15. Objectives, delivery timetables and management responsibilities have already been established and initial funding and delivery phases have been identified and in some cases improvement works have already commenced. The metro is seen as a pivotal project to the emerging Cardiff Capital Region's City Deal proposal which is supported by the ten local authorities in south east Wales. The proposal identifies the South East Wales Metro, including the Valley Lines Electrification programme, as a key priority for investment creating a more economically effective and cohesive region. It is the Council's view that the importance of the scheme to the south east region should also be reflected within a NDF for Wales because of the knock-on wider benefits for the rest of Wales beyond the region.
16. Successful delivery of a south wales metro will contribute to realising all of the Well-being goals in the Welsh Government Well-being and Future Generations Act.

### **Cardiff Airport**

17. As the only major international airport in Wales, the importance of Cardiff Airport to the future development potential of Wales, the Cardiff Capital Region and the Vale of Glamorgan cannot be underestimated.
18. With connections to the UK and mainland Europe the airport is vital to realising the economic potential of South Wales, and is inherently linked with the Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone (EZ) and the City Region.
19. Through their purchase of the airport in 2013, the Welsh Government has already illustrated the importance of the airport to the future economic prosperity of Wales. The Welsh Governments commitment to improving facilities, routes and ensuring that the airport is retained as an essential economic gateway is to be welcomed. However, there remains an issue with general accessibility and improvements to surface access routes to the airport and the associated EZ from the M4 should be a priority if their full economic benefits are to be fulfilled. These improvements must also deliver enhancements to other modes of transport such as rail, bus and cycling and walking making travel access to the airport seamless.

20. The continued improvement of the airport and surface access to it should therefore form an integral part of the NDF from the outset, such improvements contributing to the goal of a 'Prosperous Wales'.

#### **Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone**

21. Established in 2012 the Cardiff Airport and EZ is one of eight EZs in Wales which offer specific incentives to attract new and expanding business to prime locations in Wales. Focussing on the key sectors of aerospace, defence, automotive, manufacturing and engineering, the zone is centred on three distinct sites: Cardiff Airport, St Athan Aerospace Business Park and the Gateway development Zone.
22. As with the Cardiff Airport, the Welsh Government is committed to the ongoing development of the EZs and continues to work towards securing business investment. However, while the aspirations for the EZs are clearly established in the Strategic Development Framework and Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan, given the importance of the EZs to local, regional and national economies, they should also be prominent in a NDF.
23. As with Cardiff Airport, it is considered fundamental to the success of the EZ that surface access particularly from the M4 motorway is improved, increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of both the airport and the EZ. While the delivery of improvement works may fall to the local authority, given the importance of the airport and the EZs to Wales, the impetus, funding and strategic direction should come from the Welsh Government and the importance of the airport to the national economy should rightly be recognised in the NDF.

#### **M4 Junction 34 Strategic employment site and improved road links**

The former Bosch site adjacent to Junction 34 is now owned and operated by a technology company Renishaw, and is a 67 Ha site with permission for commercial use. This large strategic site is in close proximity to the M4 and with an existing high tech occupier is clearly of national importance given its links and proximity to both the M4 and the main railway line. The further expansion of strategic industries at this site should be supported through the development of a road link to the A48 to the south.

#### **M4 Corridor Opportunities e.g. Park & Ride**

24. To support the growth of the Cardiff City region and to recognise the opportunities and constraints that the M4 corridor in South Wales provides in terms of access, the NDF should consider the opportunities for projects such as park and ride/ share sites in close proximity to possible main rail lines to maximise opportunities for sustainable travel, to ease congestion. Around these sustainable hubs consideration could also be given to future sites that might be suitable areas of search for new settlements.

#### **Nationally Significant Themes**

25. The following are themes that are considered to be of national significance which should be reflected in a NDF:

#### **Affordable Housing Need and Delivery**

26. There is an undeniable and extensive need for affordable housing delivery throughout Wales. All LPAs in Wales have produced Local Housing Market Assessments and this evidence should be compiled to present a national picture of affordable housing need, with a national target and strategy for delivery.

27. While the delivery of affordable housing largely takes place at a local level through the planning and housing functions of local authorities, the need is such that a strategic approach at a national level is required. Affordable housing delivery is an issue of national importance which should be reflected in a NDF.
28. The delivery of affordable housing is largely driven by market conditions and it is evident that the market is largely unable to meet demand. The NDF should therefore consider or investigate how it is possible to intervene in the market process in order to ensure the delivery of affordable homes across Wales particularly in areas where there is little or no interest through the market in affordable housing delivery.
29. The delivery of affordable housing throughout Wales will realise significant health and social well-being benefits and contribute to delivery of a sustainable Wales and contribute towards the goals set out in the Well-being and Future Generations Act particularly 'A more equal Wales'; 'A Wales of cohesive communities' and a 'A Healthier Wales'.

### **Infrastructure Delivery and Growth**

30. Throughout the preparation of our LDP, considerable concern was expressed in representations over the ability of existing infrastructure to accommodate continued growth and the increasing pressure on limited services and facilities to cope with additional demand.
31. The NDF should recognise the need for strategic infrastructure such as roads, rail and bus hubs, schools, and community facilities to enable the level of growth expected for Wales. The NDF should consider the appropriate use of phasing to manage infrastructure delivery which where possible should be provided in advance of new developments.

### **New Settlements**

32. During the production of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) it was evident that there was some support for the creation of a new settlement to address the identified housing need within the administrative area. While this approach was not considered necessary or appropriate for the LDP (2011-2026), the issues and concerns of accommodating new housing on the edge of existing settlements, and the pressure on communities and infrastructure within existing settlements is going to be an issue in the future.
33. At this juncture, alternative solutions to meeting housing needs will need to be considered and in this regard, opportunities for new settlements may be appropriate in Wales.

The NDF should consider the issue of housing growth and consider the policy position in relation to, and if necessary and appropriate opportunities for, new settlements in Wales. Should such a policy approach be considered appropriate for new settlements to be built in Wales then such developments must include all infrastructure and facilities necessary to make the new settlement truly sustainable.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

34. The response to the Welsh Governments Call for Evidence has been formulated by officers within the Regeneration and Planning Division within existing budgets and the preparation of the NDF will not create additional financial burdens on the authority.

## **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

35. The NDF will be shaped by the goals and ways of working set out by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Like other public bodies, the Welsh Government must work towards achieving sustainable development and meet the seven well-being goals set out in the Act. The second goal of which 'A resilient Wales' seeks to achieve a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

36. There are no legal implications arising from the production of the report or the submission of the comments to the Welsh Government in response to the consultation. There are no specific Human Rights implications of this report.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

37. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. The Vale of Glamorgan Adopted Unitary Development Plan (1996-2011) and the emerging Local Development Plan (2011-2026) both contain policies which seek to create accessible and safe built environments which largely accords with the fifth goal of the Well-being and Future Generations Act which seeks to provide attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

38. The production of a National Development Framework is in its early stages and at this time no decision has been taken on area specific policies, investment and intervention. In addition specific projects have not been agreed. As a result a full Equality Impact Assessment is not deemed necessary at this stage. In future, and if deemed necessary and appropriate individual assessments will be undertaken as and when required.
39. Notwithstanding the above, the production of a National Development Framework has the potential to have positive impacts in relation to equality, given that key themes likely to be included and their impact upon the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

40. The preparation of a NDF has implications for the Council's Corporate Plan and links to Wellbeing Outcome 2 - An environmentally responsible and prosperous Vale. Objective 3 - Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment which include an action to maximise economic growth, inward investment and employment opportunities through the Cardiff Capital Region. A further action in relation to Objective 3 relates to the delivery of transport improvements associated with the Cardiff Capital Region and Metro schemes.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

41. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

42. As this matter relates to a Vale of Glamorgan wide issue and not specific wards, there has been no specific Ward Member consultation.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

43. Environment and Regeneration.

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Contact Officer**

Victoria Robinson - Operational Manager Development Management

## **Officers Consulted**

Head of Regeneration and Planning  
Head of Visible Services and Transport  
Operational Manager - Regeneration  
Lawyer, Legal Division (Committee Reports)  
Principal Accountant

## **Responsible Officer:**

Rob Thomas, Managing Director

**CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting held on 6 March, 2017.

Present: Councillor N. Moore (Chairman), Councillor L. Burnett (Vice – Chairman);  
Councillors: B.E. Brooks, P. G. King and G. John.

Also Present: Councillor I. Johnson.

**C3482 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**C3483 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

The following declaration of interest was received.

Councillor G. John	<p><b>Agenda Item 6 - Capital Monitoring Report for the Period 1st April 2016 to 31st January 2017</b></p> <p>Reason for Declaration –</p> <p>Councillor G. John declared his personal interest as a Local Education Authority (LEA) appointed governor on Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.</p> <p>As an LEA governor his personal interest did not equate to a prejudicial interest and therefore he was able to speak and vote on the matter.</p>
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**C3484 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM CONTRIBUTION TO RAISING STANDARDS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS (REF) –**

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 13 February, 2017 considered the above report.



Ms. Hannah Woodhouse, Managing Director of the Central South Consortium (CSC), was present together with Councillor Huw David, Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee, to present the report.

Ms. Woodhouse commenced by advising that Scrutiny Committees in each of the five Authorities invited the lead officer for the Authority to report on the performance of the schools in their Authority together with contributions from the Consortium at any stage of the year. An Annual Report from the Consortium relating to progress in the previous academic year and the priorities for the year ahead was also provided.

In referring to the CSC's Business Plan for the financial year 2016/17, which could be found on the Consortium's website [www.cscjes.org.uk/About-Us](http://www.cscjes.org.uk/About-Us), it was stated that the Business Plan included stretching and ambitious targets based on those targets set in each Local Authority whilst also reflecting school target setting. The Business Plan set out how the CSC aimed to deliver the priorities to effective school self-evaluation and improvement planning, underpinned by building capacity in schools to support other schools for the development of the Central South Wales Challenge. Committee was informed that the Consortium's self-evaluation process regularly reviewed the impact of challenge and support and provided an update report to the Advisory Board and Joint Committee.

Of note was the fact that part of the CSC's self-evaluation was drawn from a specific evaluation programme which had been commissioned from Cardiff University and focused on the Central South Wales Challenge Programme to evidence impact over time on capacity in the system beyond the immediate school performance information. Since 2012 it was noted that standards had improved rapidly compared to the national average across the region at every Key Stage. In 2016 the region had continued to show strong improvement and was above the national average at every Key Stage for the first time and had remained above it for the second year in Key Stages 1, 2 and 4.

In March 2016 the Consortium itself was inspected by Estyn where the inspection report recognised progress in establishing clear strategies, vision, delivery of consistent challenge and support as well as partnership working. Three good judgements had been identified for leadership, improving quality and strategic partnerships with two adequate judgements relating to school improvement and use of resources. Committee was reminded that the inspection report had previously been reported to the Scrutiny Committee detailing progress against the recommendations contained therein.

The Consortium's self-evaluation report was updated on a regular basis and identified a number of areas for improvement for the region as a whole as outlined below:-

- Despite a narrowing of the gap, gaps for vulnerable learners, particularly eFSM learners, were still too wide;
- There was significant underachievement by boys in languages;
- There remained wide variation in secondary outcomes with a small number of very vulnerable secondary schools making progress too slowly;
- More able learners' outcomes were improving but could go further particularly at Key Stage 5 (post 16);
- Leadership capacity in the system and recruitment to core subject teaching posts remained a challenge;
- Challenge Advisors' reporting was improving but judgements regarding teaching and leadership needed to be made more robustly;
- There was evidence to link most school to school working to impact, but more needed to be done to evidence sustainable impact through evaluation and deepen the impact of enquiry led practice at the classroom level;
- There was more to do to build system leadership behaviours from many heads;
- Implementation of performance management needed to be tighter for staff and there was more to do to embed a culture of self-evaluation and business planning in order to evidence value for money;
- There was further work to do with elected Members and Governors to raise awareness and improve co-ordinated scrutiny of the Consortium.

The financial year 2017/18 Business Plan would set out how the organisation would, as far as possible, respond to strategic challenges and address areas for improvement along with the Estyn recommendations through a detailed resourced plan developed with input from schools, staff and Local Authorities.

The final Business Plan for the financial year 17/18 would be presented to the Joint Committee for approval in March 2017. The Plan would have five areas of focus:

1. Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners through effective partnership work with inclusion services;
2. Delivering curriculum reform through school to school working;
3. Improving leadership, governance and workforce reform;
4. Rapid and sustainable intervention;
5. Delivering value for money.

In referring specifically to the Vale of Glamorgan, Scrutiny reports to the Committee had shown that the standards in 2016 were at least good in all Key Stages and over the last three years improvements were evident in all indicators, with good performance at the higher levels and very good progress at Key Stage 3. In comparing performance with other Local Authorities, ranking data demonstrated that the Vale of Glamorgan performed above its indicative rank position of fifth in most areas. The report highlighted in particular that:

- “At Foundation Phase, despite a slight dip in the percentage of pupils who achieved the Foundation Phase outcome indicator (FPOI), the Vale of Glamorgan’s ranking improved to second for this indicator;
- At Key Stage 2, the percentage of pupils achieving the core subject indicator increased further and remained the second highest when compared to the performance of other Local Authorities;
- At Key Stage 3, the percentage of pupils achieving the core subject indicator increased by 3.8 percentage points and the ranking from fifth to fourth.
- At Key Stage 4 the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE passes at grades A\* - C including English / Welsh and mathematics (known as the Level 2 + measure) improved in the Vale of Glamorgan by 2.2 percentage points to 67.1% which was the second highest in Wales. The national average for the L2+ was 60.3%.”

The report also detailed the challenge and support provided by the Consortium on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and referred to specific support as outlined below:

- “Nine schools were part of pathfinder pairings in the Local Authority. Of the nine, five provided support and four received support. The focus of work was tailored to the needs of each school with support from Challenge Advisors who brokered the partnerships and monitored progress and evaluated the impact;
- Most Vale schools had been involved in School Improvement Group (SIG) working, and during 2015/16 SIGs including Vale schools had focused on literacy, numeracy, teaching and pedagogy, pupil voice, leadership, ICT and digital curriculum framework (DCF) assessment and science. SIGs were reviewed annually and had to provide a report on their priorities and impact against their priorities twice a year in order to be funded;
- Four Vale of Glamorgan schools had engaged in the peer enquiry programme, which supported headteachers working in triads to review and evaluate focus areas in each school and then providing a detailed report on the strengths and areas for improvement;

- The Consortium had invested heavily in leadership provision in the 2015/16 year. This had included opportunities to support another school with leadership capacity or coaching, leadership of school to school provision and direct leadership programmes. Of these, seven headteachers had undertaken the New to Headship Programme; two headteachers had undertaken the Strategic Headship Programme; eight headteachers had completed the Consultant Headship Programme; four secured places on the Headship Now! Programme;
- There had been one Schools Challenge Cymru Advisor in the Vale of Glamorgan and in addition, the Foundation Phase, Welsh in Education, Hwb+ and Qualified for Life teams based in school improvement hubs had also supported Vale schools as part of their grant funded operation;
- Vale of Glamorgan schools involved in providing support as part of the Hub programme included:
  - Romilly Primary, Cadoxton Primary, Rhws Primary, Stanwell School, Cowbridge Comprehensive, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg – Professional Learning Continuum
  - Sully Primary School, Cowbridge Comprehensive– Welsh second language
  - Cadoxton Nursery (now amalgamated with Cadoxton Primary) – Foundation Phase
  - Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg – Welsh first language
  - Stanwell School – mathematics
  - Bryn Hafren Comprehensive– Modern Foreign Languages
  - Cadoxton Primary– Digital Competence.

The following schools were identified as Welsh Government Pioneer Schools:

- Romilly Primary, Cadoxton Primary, Rhws Primary, Barry Island Primary, Cowbridge Comprehensive, Stanwell School, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig and Albert Primary.

The following being identified as lead practitioners:

- Stanwell School, Cowbridge Comprehensive, All Saints CiW Primary, Barry Island, St. David's CiW Primary.

In referring to a number of issues which the CSC needed to make faster progress on, Committee was advised of the following:

- Continued focus on the achievement of pupils eligible for free school meals across the region;

- Alignment with Schools Challenge Cymru (SCC). We have a SCC lead in the region and six SCC advisors. We have Accelerated Learning Boards and Improvement plans from all SCC schools, but we need to continue to focus on making sure SCC, the Consortium and the Authority are working together efficiently;
- Analysis of Key Stage 2 and 3 tests had indicated variation of teacher assessment and moderation. The national approach to verification of teacher assessment has been shown to be rigorous and impactful, this would continue to be an area of focus for 2016-2017;
- Continue to work with all Human Resource departments and governor support teams to embed consistency and quality advice for schools regardless of where they were in the region;
- Improved use of information systems across the region through the development of Cronfa as a single point of information for schools, Local Authorities and Consortium colleagues across the region.

Councillor Huw David, the Chairman of the Joint Committee, reiterated that the CSC region had seen the most improvement at every Key Stage for a number of years. He also took the opportunity to congratulate the Vale as the schools in the Vale had been very much in the lead with these improvements, being first, second and third in many of the rankings. In referring to the areas of improvement, he stated that the Consortium would continue to deliver, identify and address these issues, acknowledging that part of the system was a self-improving system where the answers could be found in the schools and through leadership via headteachers on the front line.

In recognising that the final categorisation of Councils had been published on 31<sup>st</sup> January, a number of Members requested that the information be sent to all Members. Of note was the fact that within the Vale 43% of schools had been categorised as Green, 41.5% as Yellow, 12% as Amber and 3.5% as Red.

In considering Vale schools, reference was made to the previous Estyn inspections reported to the Committee at the last meeting and the confidential information at the last meeting in relation to Palmerston which had now been released by Estyn. Members stated that they had requested that letters of congratulations be extended to the schools and in particular following the release of the inspection report wished to offer they congratulations to Palmerston who had received excellent results in their Inspection.

The Managing Director of the Consortium then referred to Professor Graham Donaldson's report on successful futures advising that a review had been

undertaken of curriculum assessment arrangements in Wales from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4. The Chairman of the Consortium advised that he would expect every school to have read the document and consider how they themselves were assessing teaching, together with a need for Governors to challenge the school on how they intend achieving the recommendations outlined within the report. Ten schools in the Vale were currently involved in shaping the development of the curriculum with the suggestion being put forward that a presentation on their work be presented to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, it being noted that every school could have the opportunity to benefit from learning experiences that could be afforded from such work.

The Interim Director of Learning and Skills advised that as a result of a change to the content and assessment of certain GCSEs, secondary schools were finding it difficult to set targets in some subject areas. Although progress at Key Stage 4 had been good over the last four years, the same linear progression could not be expected in the summer. It was important to recognise that each school should be looked at in an individual context and then benchmarked against other similar schools.

Following a comment from a Member as to whether assistance was being afforded to teachers to encourage their development into future headteacher positions the Chairman of the Joint Committee advised that a programme had commenced whereby the Consortium provides support and skills training to teachers in particular, to newly appointed headteachers. It was imperative that proper support was provided although it was noted that more could be done. Welsh Government had also recognised the issue was a problem across the whole of Wales and that the pool needed to grow in order to ensure there were headteachers for the future with the right skills. The Leadership Academy announced by the Minister Kirsty Williams was designed to learn from regions, with the hope that every school would be able to identify future leaders within the school and mechanisms put in place to develop them from within.

In response to a query from the Chairman as to whether any further work had been undertaken in relation to ensuring a number of schools obtain the right levels of support, the Lead Officer for School Improvement advised that a number of days were offered in line with the national model, but the important factor was to ensure that the category was right from the outset. Although acknowledging that the categorisation system determined the level of support, the Chairman of the Consortium stated that, in his view, the system should be more flexible and be able to respond to changes throughout the year. The Lead Officer confirmed that although up to ten days could be provided of the Challenge Advisor's time, additional support could also be given and that there was a significant menu of support that could be

used for schools. The Interim Director confirmed that across the region they would be looking to review the number of days allocated to each category of school ahead of a Welsh Government review of the national model. The work of the CSC in this area could influence this aspect of the national model.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Ms. Hannah Woodhouse and Councillor David for their attendance and to wish the Managing Director all the best in the future as she was leaving the Consortium for pastures new.

Having considered the report, the presentation and the evidence presented, it was subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the performance across the Central South region in 2016 be noted.
- (2) T H A T letters of congratulation on behalf of the Committee be sent to schools identified as Green and those most improved.
- (3) T H A T, notwithstanding the letters to be sent to schools agreed at the previous meeting, a letter be also sent to Palmerston School in recognition of the excellent inspection report received.
- (4) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee receives a report at a future meeting in respect of the Donaldson Review.
- (5) T H A T the Consortium report be referred to Cabinet for consideration and stressing the need to ensure that all schools consider the implications of the Donaldson Report.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To ensure Members are aware of performance of the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to the role of the Central South Consortium and to note the challenge and support provided by the Central South Consortium on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Directorate of Learning and Skills.
- (2&3) To offer the Committee's congratulations to the schools.
- (4) To apprise Members.

(5) To advise Cabinet of performance to date and the implications of the Donaldson Review.

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Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture)

This was a matter for Executive decision

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted and it be confirmed that the schools had been advised accordingly of the Donaldson Report and its requirements were being adhered to.

Reason for decision

To note the contents of the report and that schools had been informed accordingly of the implications of the Donaldson report.

**C3485 HUMANIST REPRESENTATIVE ON THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) (REF) –**

The Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 13 February, 2017 considered the above report of the Interim Director of Learning and Skills.

Committee was informed that all Local Authorities were required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area, with the main function of a SACRE being to:

- advise the Local Authority on collective worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers;
- consider whether to recommend to the Local Authority that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference;
- consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be “broadly Christian in nature” should be varied (determinations); and
- report to the Local Authority and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on its activities on an annual basis.



The Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet at its meeting on 19th October, 2015 determined that its SACRE should comprise of six Elected Members representing the Local Authority, twelve representatives of Christian and other religious groups and eight representatives of teachers' associations. Four co-opted places were also available to be decided upon at the Committee's discretion. Youth co-opted members as having an interest in religious education and collective worship and to assist the Committee in its functions.

An application had been received for Humanist Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE from the Wales Humanist Development Officer. However, following the application, the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE met to consider the request, where it was agreed that the application should be refused on the basis that the SACRE did not consider Humanism to be a religion or a denomination of a religion for the purposes of Section 390 of the Education Act 1996.

The Vale of Glamorgan SACRE considered that Humanism was a non-religion and available evidence suggested that a Humanist representative would not serve to proportionally represent recognised religious traditions within the Vale. The remit of a SACRE was to deal with religious education and collective worship and the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE felt therefore that there was no obligation to have Humanist representation. Advice on the matter had been sought from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and that advice could be found at Appendix D to the report.

A full equality impact assessment was also conducted on the impact of the recommendation by the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE to decline the application for Humanist representation on the SACRE and a copy of that assessment was attached at Appendix E to the report.

The outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment was to adjust the policy, with the following considerations:

- A recommendation for the Vale of Glamorgan SACRE to consider a voluntary extension of membership to include a co-opted member of the Humanist belief. Additionally it should be made clear that any decision did not preclude any applications from other relevant belief / non-belief groups in the future and any further decisions would be made taking into account the specific context of that application;
- A recommendation that the Vale of Glamorgan Equalities Department review whether there were any measures available to identify the current number of Humanists in the Vale of Glamorgan.

A Member of the Scrutiny Committee advised that the Oxford English Dictionary stated that the word “religion” means “the belief in and worship of a super human controlling power especially a personal god or gods” and as a result in that context Humanism did not fit into the definition by its very nature.

Following a query from the Chairman as to whether the Council could collect details of Humanist numbers in the future, the Operational Manager advised that information on “non-religious belief” was collected in the national census.

Having fully considered the report and the recommendations of SACRE, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the recommendation of SACRE to decline the application for Humanist representation on SACRE be endorsed and Cabinet be informed accordingly.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having considered the recommendation of SACRE and the advice and correspondence at Appendix D to the report be sought from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

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Cabinet, having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture)

After presenting this item, the Leader confirmed that only Cabinet could agree the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

This was a matter for Executive decision

RESOLVED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted and the recommendations of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) be endorsed and the application for Humanist representation on SACRE be declined.

#### Reason for decision

To accept the recommendations of SACRE and the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture).

**C3486 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2016 TO 31ST JANUARY 2017 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - ALL) –**

Cabinet was updated of the progress on the 2016/17 Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 31 January, 2017.

Appendix 1 attached to the report detailed the financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31 January, 2017.

For all schemes where it was evident that the full year's budget would not be spent during the year, the relevant officers were required to provide an explanation for the shortfall and this would be taken to the earliest available Cabinet.

Appendix 2 attached to the report provided non-financial information on capital construction schemes with a budget of over £100k. Where a budget shown in Appendix 1 was more than £100k but was made up of several schemes that individually were less than £100k, the scheme was not included in Appendix 2.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

**RESOLVED –**

(1) T H A T the following changes to the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Capital Programme be approved:

- Victorian Schools - Carry forward budget of £50k.
- Llantwit Major Learning Community - Carry forward budget of £1m.
- Eagleswell Demolition - Carry forward budget of £100k.
- St Brides Expansion - Carry forward budget of £314k.
- Rhooose Road Health & Safety Works - Carry forward £24k for Fire Precaution works.
- Ogmere By Sea Sustainable Transport - Carry forward budget of £30k.
- Boverton Flooding - That the budget for this scheme be re-profiled as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
- Romilly Mess Room - Carry forward budget of £65k.
- Barry and Penarth Leisure Centre Upgrade Changing Rooms - Carry forward budget of £104k.

- Colcot Pitches - Carry forward budget of £307k.
- Parks and Grounds Maintenance Asset Renewal - Carry forward budget of £14k.
- Five Mile Lane - Carry forward budget of £250k.
- Barry Regeneration Partnership - Carry forward budget of £88k.
- Marketing and Disposal of Nell's Point - Carry forward budget of £35k.
- Feasibility Studies In Penarth Including The Esplanade - Carry forward budget of £47k.
- North Penarth Open Space Improvements - Carry forward budget of £70k.
- Cogan Hall Farm - Carry forward budget of £103k.

(2) T H A T the following changes to the 2016/17 Capital Programme be approved:

- Coast Protection and Land Drainage - Increase the budget by £30k, funded by a Welsh Government grant.
- WelTag Stage One Transport Network Appraisal for Dinas Powys - Include a new scheme for £20k, funded by a Welsh Government grant.
- Tackling Poverty - Increase budget for Victoria Gardens by £8k, funded from a s106 contribution.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allow schemes to be undertaken in future years.
- (2) To allow schemes to proceed in the current financial year.

#### **C3487 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2016 TO 31ST JANUARY 2017 (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - ALL) –**

Cabinet was advised of the progress relating to revenue expenditure for the period 1 April to 31 January, 2017.

The Learning and Skills Directorate was projecting an adverse variance of £672k at year end and the Social Services Directorate was anticipated to outturn with an adverse variance of around £300k. Proposals to mitigate this position were outlined in the report. The HRA budget was projecting an outturn within target. The position by service was shown in the following table.

<b>Directorate/Service</b>	<b>2016/17 Original Budget £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 Revised Budget £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 Projected Outturn £'000</b>	<b>Variance (+) Fav (-) Adv £'000</b>
<b>Learning and Skills</b>				
Schools		81,009	81,009	0
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources		13,233	12,947	286
Strategy and Regulation		250	208	42
Achievement for All		3,573	4,525	-952
Net transfer from Reserve		0	(672)	672
School Improvement		1,241	1,289	-48
Prior to Reorganisation	99,359			
<b>Social Services</b>				
Children and Young People	14,858	14,913	14,513	400
Adult Services	39,906	40,096	40,796	(700)
Use of Reserves	0	0	(300)	300
Business Management & Innovation	295	276	276	0
Youth Offending Service	696	701	701	0
<b>Environment &amp; Housing</b>				
Visible Services	20,068	20,335	20,405	(70)
Transportation	4,834	4,836	4,766	70
Building Services	0	0	0	0
Regulatory Services	2,056	2,218	2,218	0
Council Fund Housing	744	988	988	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(22)	768	768	0
<b>Managing Director &amp; Resources</b>				
Resources	982	269	269	0
Regeneration	2,172	2,123	2,123	0
Development Management	896	962	962	0
Private Housing	11,262	11,021	11,021	0
General Policy	16,660	16,744	16,744	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>214,766</b>	<b>215,556</b>	<b>215,556</b>	<b>0</b>
Met from General Reserve	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>213,266</b>	<b>214,056</b>	<b>214,056</b>	<b>0</b>

**Learning and Skills** - The Directorate was projected to outturn with an adverse variance of £672k at year end as detailed below. £500k had been set aside in the

Schools Placements reserve to be used as a one off contribution in 2016/17 to mitigate part of the shortfall while further Reshaping Services work was undertaken by the Directorate.

**Social Services** - The Directorate was projected to outturn with an adverse variance of £300k at year end.

**Environment and Housing** - It was projected that the service would outturn within target at year end.

**Managing Director and Resources** - It was projected that the service would outturn within target at year end.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED – T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2016/17 Revenue Budget be noted.

Reason for decision

To note the projected revenue outturn for 2016/17.

**C3488 VALE OF GLAMORGAN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD - WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The endorsement of Cabinet was sought for the Well-being Assessment which had to be published by the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) by the beginning of May 2017.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force in April 2016 and its primary aim was to ensure that public bodies improved the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principle. The Act established Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each local authority area and set out their duties with regard to publishing a Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan.

In line with statutory guidance the assessment considered the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area and provided an analysis of the state of well-being across the Vale as a whole and more specifically around three community areas; Barry, Eastern Vale and the Western Vale. These areas were determined through a workshop held in November 2015 and were based on the availability of data and boundaries used by partners such as the Police and the University Health Board.

The assessment was made up of a suite of documents which included:

- An Executive Summary attached at Appendix A to the report.
- Our Vale - the Well-being Assessment which was the overview document bringing all the information together attached at Appendix B to the report.
- Community Profiles attached at Appendices C – F of the report.
- Four detailed Evidence Reports.
- An Engagement Report.

Consultation on the draft assessment took place between 9 January and 5 February, 2017. Attached at Appendix G to the report was a log of the feedback received and the response/changes made to the assessment.

The revised assessment was due to be approved by PSB on 9 March, 2017 to enable translation and publication by the beginning of April.

At the meeting, the Leader gave his thanks to Officers for the phenomenal amount of work undertaken on this report.

The Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation stated that the Well-being Assessment had been considered by a Llandough Community Council working party which had identified three collaborative themes which were shared between the County and Community Council on their Well-being objectives.

Finally, the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services agreed with his colleagues that this was an excellent document, and would like his thanks conveyed to staff for all their hard work in producing the Well-being Assessment.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) T H A T the Well-being Assessment be endorsed for approval by the Public Services Board on 9 March, 2017.
- (2) T H A T the use of Article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision on procedure) be authorised in respect of resolution 1 above.
- (3) T H A T thanks be given to staff in the Council and Partner Organisations for their hard work on producing the Well-being Assessment.

**Reasons for decisions**

- (1) To enable the Well-being Assessment to be approved and published by the Public Services Board within the statutory timeframes as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- (2) To enable the report to be referred to the Public Services Board on 9 March, 2017.
- (3) To thank staff for their hard work.

**C3489      WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY (L) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

Approval was sought for the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report.

The Welsh Language Commissioner issued every local authority in Wales with a Compliance Notice, which included a list of 172 Standards, in September 2015. Standard 145 of the Compliance Notice required the Council to produce and publish a 5 year strategy which set out how the Council would promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh Language more widely in the Vale of Glamorgan. The strategy also included a target for increasing or maintaining the percentage of Welsh speakers in the Vale of Glamorgan and a statement on how the target would be reached. The strategy had to be reviewed or revised every 5 years.

A public consultation on the draft strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan ran for a period of six weeks from December 2016 to January 2017. The draft strategy was considered by the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) in its meeting of 12 December 2016 as part of the consultation. In addition to comments received in that



meeting, the Council received feedback on the draft strategy from a number of stakeholders.

Appendix B as attached to the report outlined the responses received and whether they were reflected in the revised strategy. The feedback received was mostly positive, with some of the requested amendments to the action plan designed to ensure that the actions were appropriate and achievable. The revised strategy was endorsed at a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 13 February, 2017.

After this item had been presented, the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services asked the Leader if Welsh Government had provided the Council with any extra funding to support the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. The Leader noted that no extra funding had been provided. In response, the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services noted that the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy represented a great deal of work, and extra funding was required for its implementation and advised that representation was made to Welsh Government to this effect.

The Leader also noted that in a recent inspection of the Council's Welsh language provision, the inspectors had been satisfied with the progress the Council had made.

The Managing Director noted that paragraph 4 of the report stated that "Standard 145 of the Compliance Notice requires the Council to produce and publish a 5 year strategy which sets out how the Council will promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh Language more widely in the Vale of Glamorgan". This was just one of the many standards the Vale of Glamorgan, and other Councils, had to comply with or face financial penalties.

Finally, the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services stated that he supported the speaking of Welsh and was currently attending lessons, however he wanted Local Authorities to have more support from Welsh Government on this matter.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the amendments made to the strategy following consultation, as set out in Appendix B attached to the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy set out at Appendix A attached to the report, be endorsed for implementation on 1 April, 2017.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1-2) To comply with the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure.

#### **C3490 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW MIXED-SEX SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BARRY (RE) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

Cabinet was advised of the outcome of the statutory notice to establish two new mixed-sex secondary schools in Barry and the process to be followed to allow a determination to be made.

A Cabinet report recommending that the Council consult on a proposal to establish new mixed sex secondary schools in Barry was presented to Cabinet on 4 July, 2016. The proposal was to establish two new mixed sex secondary schools in Barry by closing the existing single sex English medium Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools from September 2018. Cabinet approved the recommendation to carry out a consultation exercise for a period of 6 weeks (Cabinet Minute C3230 refers) to take place between 5 September, 2016 and 17 October, 2016. The consultation document was attached as Appendix A to the report, and was available on the Council's website.

A consultation report attached at Appendix B to the report was presented to Cabinet on 12 December, 2016 and published on 14 December, 2016 in accordance with the statutory requirement to publish within 13 weeks after the end of the consultation period. Cabinet approved the recommendation to proceed to issue a statutory notice on the proposal (Cabinet Minute C3396 refers). A statutory notice was published on 3 January, 2017. The statutory notice period of 28 days (including 20 school days), was closed on 31 January, 2016. A copy of the notice was attached at Appendix C to the report.

In line with the School Organisation Code (2013) requirements the statutory notice was published in English and Welsh on the Council's website and posted at the main entrances and surrounding area of both school sites. Both schools were provided with hard copies of the notice to distribute to pupils, parents, governors and staff

members. Both schools provided links to the notice on their websites. On the day of the statutory notice being published, relevant stakeholders received either a hard copy or were e-mailed a link to the Council's website together with an electronic copy of the document.

All objections submitted during the notice period had to be made in writing or by email. By the end of the statutory notice period on 31 January, 2017 the Council had received 3 objections. Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the Council had to publish a summary of the statutory objections and a response to those objections - the Objection Report. This was attached at Appendix D to the report.

Following careful planning and considered management, the report stated there was no reason why the implementation of the proposal would not be able to at the very least maintain the current level of provision, however it was anticipated that the proposal would significantly enhance the learning environments for pupils, and therefore contribute to raising standards.

A key driver to all school reorganisation proposals was to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in all phases and help to narrow the inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged groups and individuals. An Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal to establish mixed-sex secondary schools in Barry was attached at Appendix E to the report. The Equality Impact Assessment did not identify any potential for adverse impacts as a result of implementing the proposal and as a result, it had not been necessary to identify mitigating actions to address any negative impact.

At the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education tabled a replacement to Appendix B as attached to the report.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the findings of the objection report on the proposal be noted.
- (2) T H A T implementation of the proposal to establish two new mixed-sex secondary schools on the current sites of Barry Comprehensive and Bryn

Hafren Comprehensive schools and to establish a joint sixth form across both schools in Barry by closing the existing single sex English medium Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools from September 2018, be approved.

- (3) T H A T thanks be given to Officers and the Advisory Group for their hard work on the development of the proposal to establish two new mixed-sex secondary schools in Barry.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure the views of objectors were taken into account in the decision making process.
- (2) Following the completion of a period of statutory notice, a decision was required on whether to implement the proposal to establish new mixed-sex secondary schools in Barry.
- (3) To give thanks to Officers and the Advisory Group for their hard work.

#### **C3491      WELSH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION: CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND PROJECTS (RE) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

Cabinet was advised of the Welsh Government's Consultation in respect of the proposed National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales. The consultation called for evidence and projects which would help inform the NDF and was looking specifically for evidence in respect of the role and scope of the NDF, national issues that could be addressed in the NDF and the NDF's role in shaping regional Strategic Development Plans and local authority Local Development Plans.

The NDF would concentrate on development and land use issues of national significance which the planning system was able to influence and deliver. The process of approving the NDF would include a statutory twelve week public consultation period and the NDF in line with other development plans would have a fixed time period at the end of which it would cease to have effect as a development plan.

The Planning Directorate of Welsh Government had begun work on the production of a National Development Framework (NDF). The NDF would set out a 20 year land use framework for Wales and would replace the current Wales Spatial Plan.

The NDF would:

- Set out where nationally important growth and infrastructure was needed and how the planning system - nationally, regionally and locally - could deliver it.
- Provide direction for Strategic and Local Development Plans and support the determination of Developments of National Significance.
- Sit alongside Planning Policy Wales, which set out the Welsh Government's planning policies and would continue to provide the context for land use planning.
- Support national economic, transport, environmental, housing, energy and cultural strategies and ensure they could be delivered through the planning system.
- Be reviewed every 5 years.

Given the significance of the NDF therefore it was imperative that projects which were of direct relevance and impact upon the Vale of Glamorgan and indeed the Cardiff Capital City Region were fully represented and the following projects were detailed in the report as they were considered to warrant submission as a part of the Welsh Government's call for evidence.

- Cardiff Capital Region Metro
- Cardiff Airport
- Cardiff Airport and St Athan Enterprise Zone
- M4 Junction 34 Strategic employment site and improved road links
- M4 Corridor Opportunities e.g. Park & Ride
- Affordable Housing Need and Delivery
- Infrastructure Delivery and Growth
- New Settlements

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Welsh Government's consultation and Call for Evidence and Projects on the National Development Framework.

- (2) T H A T the use of Article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised to enable the response to be submitted for Welsh Government's call for evidence by the closing date of 7 March, 2017.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To endorse the response to be submitted to the Welsh Government consultation and Call for Evidence and Projects on the NDF.
- (2) To ensure a response was sent in respect of the call for evidence prior to the closing date of 7 March, 2017.

**C3492 THE SALE AND DISPOSAL OF THE PASSENGER VESSEL 'LEWIS ALEXANDER' (RE) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

Approval was sought to sell the passenger vessel 'Lewis Alexander' to Cardiff City Council.

The passenger vessel 'Lewis Alexander' was previously used to transport visitors to and from Flat Holm Island from Barry Docks. As a consequence of local government re-organisation in 1996, the staff, project and island (formerly South Glamorgan County Council) went to Cardiff City Council and the vessel, jetty and office (at Barry Docks and leased from Associated British Ports) came to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Cardiff City Council had ceased operating a passenger service to Flat Holm Island and the 'Lewis Alexander' had therefore become surplus to requirements. The vessel had been in dock since 2013 and was currently moored in Cardiff Bay by Cardiff Harbour Authority at the expense of Cardiff City Council.

The vessel no longer held a current Passenger Certificate, which was paramount if the vessel was to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers on a commercial basis. It was expected that the vessel would continue to depreciate in value, as it was reaching the end of its life expectancy, with maintenance and running costs increasing.

Cardiff City Council was willing to purchase the vessel directly from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to expedite the procedure and was prepared to offer a valuation sum of £17k in compensation for maintenance works not carried out on the vessel

since it was decommissioned. Cardiff City Council would be responsible for any ancillary costs associated with the future disposal of the vessel.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED – T H A T the offer of £17k to purchase the `Lewis Alexander` made by Cardiff City Council be accepted.

#### Reason for decision

To dispose of the vessel as it had no practical use or benefit to the Council.

### **C3493          ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY (HOUSING) (HSCH) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

Approval was sought for an Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy for public housing.

The external environment on public housing estates was important to residents. A recent tenants' satisfaction survey highlighted issues including: parking, defensible space, rubbish/litter etc. as significant concerns. As well as the appearance of estates, the survey showed issues like access to open spaces and safety in the home/local area could have a big impact on quality of life. It was vital therefore that the Council set aside appropriate sums of money to invest in the external environment.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) standards required of the Council were vague in terms of the environment. They set out a minimum standard that "all dwellings should be located in an environment to which residents can relate and in which they feel proud to live" but provided little supplementary guidance, this had resulted in different interpretations by social housing providers. In recognition of this fact the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) were commissioned to consult with social landlords and develop a guide to best practice which could be used to inform investment plans and shape of this money was spent.

The Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy adopted the principles set out in the WHQS guidance and the supplementary guidance recommended by the TPAS report, particularly around the interpretation of the standard, the potential for

harnessing environmental improvements towards social inclusion objectives and about adopting a systematic approach to investment which took into account residents' priorities.

Four key themes formed the basis of the Strategy, namely: increased residents' feeling of safety in their home and in their local neighbourhood; improved appearance and cleanliness of the local environment; improved access to and use of open spaces for recreational use; and increased residents' sense of pride in their area through effective community engagement around environmental issues. The four priority themes gave rise to a range of initiatives and actions to improve the quality of services provided.

Progress with implementing the Strategy would be measured via the completion of individual actions contained within the Operational Delivery Plan towards the back of the document. There would also be periodic reports to the Homes and Safe Communities Group regarding the range of projects and initiatives taking place.

After this item had been presented, the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services stated that he welcomed the report, as it showed that the Council was providing good homes for tenants and also an improved environment for people to live in.

The Leader agreed with his colleague, noting that the Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy had many community benefits.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the new Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy (Housing) attached at Appendix A to the report be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy (Housing) attached at Appendix A to the report be referred to the Scrutiny Committee (Homes and Safe Communities) for consideration.



- (3) T H A T the Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy be referred back to Cabinet for finalising upon receiving the views of the Scrutiny Committee (Homes and Safe Communities).
- (4) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee (Homes and Safe Communities) and Cabinet receive six monthly monitoring reports in relation to the Operational Delivery Plan for the Environment and Neighbourhoods Strategy.

#### Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the external environment on public housing estates was maintained to a good standard and was utilised by members of the local community.
- (2) To provide an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee (Homes and Safe Communities) to make any comments.
- (3) To agree the final Strategy document.
- (4) To ensure the actions identified were progressed.

#### **C3494 WINDSOR ROAD, PENARTH - PROPOSED DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACE - OBJECTION REPORT (BSHT) (SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –**

Cabinet was advised of an objection received to the proposed installation of a disabled person's parking place in Windsor Road, Penarth and the appropriate action.

The Authority received a request from the disabled resident of 164 Windsor Road, Penarth for a disabled person's parking place to be installed in the Council adopted layby fronting their property. The applicant expressed a preference for the disabled person's parking place to be installed at the most north westerly point within the layby due to there being fewer steps leading from the footway into the layby at this point. The location was agreed by the Authority as it was confirmed that it was the most convenient place for the disabled resident to park giving them ease of accessibility to their vehicle by wheelchair. The applicant met the current criteria as detailed in Council Policy for disabled person's parking places.

Under delegated authority, the Head of Visible Services and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and

Transportation, gave approval to undertake statutory consultations and to give public notice of the Council's intention to install a disabled person's parking place in Windsor Road, Penarth. This approval was given on 7 July, 2016.

A letter of objection to the proposal was received from a resident of Windsor Road which was attached at Appendix A to the report for consideration, and the traffic officer's responses were detailed in the report.

This was a matter for Executive decision

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the objection be rejected for the reasons contained in the report and the disabled person's parking place be installed.
- (2) T H A T the objector be advised of this decision.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To allow the Traffic Regulation Order to be made and implemented.
- (2) To confirm the Council's position.