

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 8th January, 2026.

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

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

Present: Councillor L. Burnett (Chair); Councillors B.E. Brooks, R.M. Birch, G. John, S.D. Perkes, S. Sivagnanam, E. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

Also Present: Councillor G. Bruce.

C175 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Leader commenced by advising of some housekeeping issues and advised that the meeting was being livestreamed, recorded and would be uploaded to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Cabinet also congratulated Jason Bennett, the Head of Adult Services for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, who had been awarded an MBE for his services to Social Care as part of the King's 2026 New Year's Honours.

C176 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C177 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C178 CABINET QUARTERLY REPORT - REPORTING MINUTES OF JOINT COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES WHERE THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to provide a quarterly update for all Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council concerning meetings of Joint Committees and Committees where the Vale of Glamorgan Council was an active participant from October to December 2025.

The Leader, who attended meetings of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, reported that some of the items discussed at the various meetings included:-

- 2023/24 Audited Statements of Accounts;
- 2024/25 Draft Statement of Accounts;
- 2025/26 Q1 Treasury Management Update;
- 2024/25 Audited Annual Accounts;
- Regional LAEP (Local Area Energy Plan) Annual Report 2024-25;
- Governance Transition - Strategic Development Sub Committee;
- Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) – feasibility funding had been allocated within the Transport Plan to look into a transport interchange at St Athan.

Councillor Wilson, who attended meetings of the Cardiff Bay Advisory Committee, reported that some of the items discussed at the various meetings included:-

- Navigational safety issues;
- Matters concerning the barrage;
- Environment issues – including engagement with approximately 500 primary school children, either during history trips of Cardiff Bay or in school sessions based around looking after rivers and seas and hosting of the 44th Network of the Heads of European Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Network Plenary meeting. New research finding had also been secured to look at Real-Time Digital Water-Based Systems;
- Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels;
- The Barrage Fish Pass;
- Stakeholders' updates, including issues concerning parking and a perceived reduction in numbers of visitors across the parts of the Bay;
- Granting of formal membership to other organisations.

Councillor Sivagnanam, who attended meetings of the Shared Regulatory Service, reported the Special meeting discussed the Appointment of the Head of Shared Regulatory Services.

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 minutes concerning meetings of Joint Committees and Committees where the Vale of Glamorgan Council was an active participant from October to December 2025 be noted.

Reason for decisions

To present to Cabinet a report on a quarterly basis which would provide an overview of all the Joint Committee Meetings of which the Vale of Glamorgan Council was a formal member and links to the respective minutes.

C179 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET PROPOSALS 2026/27, RENT SETTING 2026/27 AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2026/27 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for the financial year 2026/27, set the rents and service charges for the forthcoming rent year beginning on 1st April, 2026 and present the 30 Year Housing Business Plan starting financial year 2026/27.

Place Scrutiny Committee also considered the report on 6th January, 2026 and recommended to Cabinet that with regard to Recommendation (3) of the Scrutiny report (that Cabinet recommends to Council that it approves an average rent increase of 4.3%), the Committee asked for the report to clarify the affordability criteria set within it in relation to the proposed rent increases, and that the information should include details on the average rent increase levels set by Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners in order to further clarify the rationale for the decision making around the level of rent increase proposed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Leader said that Officers had already started working to be able to provide the requested information, however it was known that all Social Landlords were experiencing pressures and only one was not increasing rents by 4.3% due to rents already being up to the Local Housing Allowance rate. The requested information would however be provided to Members as supplemental information prior to the discussion at Full Council on 12th January, 2026.

Welsh Government required all Local Authorities who retained their housing stock to submit annually an acceptable Housing Revenue Account Business Plan in the form of a 30-year Business Plan and even minor tweaks to that Plan could have a significant impact on that Plan.

It was proposed that the commitment continue of no evictions due to financial hardship for the term of the settlement, where tenants engaged with landlords.

The Leader referred to the table associated with Recommendation (3) to the report and noted that the proposed charges for services in some cases had gone down to reflect the actual costs of provision of those services.

Councillor Perks as Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement, said the rents and service charges were set each year and ensured that service and maintenance charges were based on the previous year and therefore was not for profit, with any surplus reinvested in the service to build new homes and retrofitting of existing stock to comply with the Welsh Housing Quality Standards. The rents charged for rental properties were some of the lowest within the Vale of Glamorgan in order to be more affordable for the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Wilson said it was important to invest in housing stock as doing so meant there was less cause for repair costs and made properties more sustainable going forward and compliant with existing and future legislation.

The Leader said it was essential that the Council provided quality homes support for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan. Council rental costs were a third less than private rental costs and less than Housing Associations in the Vale of Glamorgan and Council charges reflected the actual cost of provision for tenants rather than making profit and any surplus raised was reinvested into that service.

This was a matter for Executive referral to Full Council for consideration.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) **T H A T** the final Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2026/27 set out below be approved:-

	Original 2025/26	Change	2026/27 Final Proposed Budget
Expenditure			£000
Supervision & Management – General	4,909	(90)	4,819
Supervision & Management – Special	1,962	(87)	1,875
Repairs & Maintenance	5,920	805	6,725
Capital Financing Costs	6,889	737	7,626
Rent, Rates, Taxes & Other Charges	298	(29)	269
Increase in Provision for Bad Debts	691	29	720
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	6,979	(322)	6,657
	27,648	1,043	28,691
Income			
Dwelling Rents	(26,158)	(1192)	(27,350)
Non Dwelling Rents	(199)	(6)	(205)
Interest	(215)	(7)	(222)
Charges For Services and Facilities	(817)	54	(763)
Contribution towards expenditure	(95)	0	(95)
Grant Income	(205)	0	(205)
	(27,689)	(1,151)	(28,840)
(Surplus)/ deficit for the year	(41)	108	(149)
Working Balance Brought Forward as at 1st April 2026	(3,885)	(440)	(4,325)
Working Balance Carried Forward as at 31st March 2027	(3,926)	(548)	(4,474)

(2) T H A T Full Council be recommended to approve an average rent increase of 4.3%, as set out in paragraphs 2.24.

(3) T H A T Full Council be recommended to approve the increase suggested for other services as set out in the table below and in paragraphs 2.26 to 2.34.

50 Week Basis	2025/26 Actual Charges	2026/27 Proposed Charges	
	£	£	
Grounds Maintenance	1.51	1.48	per week
Cleaning of communal areas	3.00	3.19	per week
Lighting of communal areas	3.60	2.52	per week
Laundry Facilities	0.41	0.40	per week
Window Cleaning	0.18	0.16	per week
Lift Maintenance	1.25	1.82	per week
Door Entry	0.80	1.05	per week
Intercom	1.29	1.86	per week
CCTV	1.43	1.78	per week
Sewerage Treatment Plants	467.54	485.00	per annum
Cesspools	451.00	468.14	per annum

(4) T H A T Full Council be recommended to approve all changes to rents and service charges be implemented from 1st April 2026, with the first week of April being a non-chargeable rent week and that increase notices are sent to tenants two months in advance of the new charges coming into effect as required by the Rented Homes Wales Act.

(5) T H A T the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2026/56 be approved.

(6) T H A T the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order for Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Proposals 2026/27, Rent Setting and Housing Business Plan to be referred to Full Council on 12th January, 2026.

(7) T H A T further to the recommendation from Place Scrutiny Committee on 6th January, 2026, information be provided to Members prior to the discussion at Full Council on 12th January, 2026 to clarify the affordability criteria set within the report in relation to the proposed rent increases, and that the information should include details on the average rent increase levels set by Registered Social Landlord partners.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To facilitate budget monitoring and to demonstrate a balanced budget with a drawdown from HRA reserves to bring the reserve back into balance with the Housing Business Plan 2026/27.

(2) In order that new rent levels were set within the specified Welsh Government guidelines and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.

(3) That charges were approved and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.

(4) In order that charges were approved, new rent levels were set within the specified Welsh Government guidelines and to meet the tenant notification deadline as required by statute.

(5) To obtain Cabinet approval for the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2026/56 (draft) prior to referral to Full Council.

(6) To allow this report to be referred to Full Council on 12th January, 2026 in order to comply with the Rented Homes Wales Act and meet the requirement of the Housing Business plan submission for 31st March, 2026.

(7) Having regard to the discussion at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

C180 PAY POLICY 2026/27 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The item had been moved to the end of the agenda to allow any Senior Officers in attendance to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed.

The Leader presented the report to ask Cabinet to consider and endorse the Council's annual Pay Policy for 2026/27 prior to its submission to Full Council for approval.

With reference to Section 8.1 of Appendix A concerning the gender pay gap, the Leader noted that the median and mean pay gap had reduced significantly from 2019 to 2025 to 1.6% and 2.3%, respectively. ONS had reported that the average UK figure for the previous year had been 7% and so reflected a positive position for the Council as a position of parity was worked towards.

This was a matter for Executive referral to Full Council for consideration.

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

RESOLVED –

(1) THAT the required changes to the Council's Pay Policy 2026/27 as set out in the report be approved and incorporated in the revised statement at Appendix A.

(2) THAT the Pay Policy be endorsed and referred for consideration by Resources Scrutiny Committee and for final consideration and approval by Full Council. Should Resources Scrutiny Committee make no further comments then

Cabinet would consider the Pay Policy as agreed and therefore referred to Full Council for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To respond to the legal requirements under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2014, the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 and related advice from the Welsh Government.
- (2) To respond to the legal requirement under the Localism Act 2011 and to provide openness and accountability in relation to how the Council rewards its staff.

C181 CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-2030 – YEAR 1 UPDATE (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to provide an update on the Council's 2024/25 Net Zero Carbon data reported to Welsh Government and provide an update on delivery against Year 1 of the Council's Carbon Management Plan 2024-30.

Previous reports had focused on the building related carbon footprint, however there had been increased emphasis on reducing organisation wide carbon emissions (including supply chains known as scope 3 emissions) which were often difficult to quantify.

The task faced by the Council to reduce the carbon footprint was significant with increased staff resources required. Data for 2024/25 indicated a 6% increase in carbon emissions when compared with 2023/24 which could mostly be attributed to the scope 3 emissions as part of the supply chain. The Council therefore was trying to source more goods locally or contract work locally where possible.

Councillor Wilson said increased use of electric vehicles had been positive in terms of reducing emissions, even for larger fleet vehicles with the advances in the relevant technology.

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 progress detailed in the report and accompanying appendices in relation to the Carbon Management Plan 2024-2030 be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T the 2024/25 Net Zero Carbon emissions data submitted to Welsh Government (provided as Appendix A) be noted.
- (3) T H A T the progress against the Carbon Management Plan (provided as Appendix B) be noted.

(4) T H A T relevant staff be thanked for the work undertaken to produce the comprehensive report.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable Cabinet to consider how work to decarbonise the Council's corporate activity was being taken forward.
- (2) To ensure that Members were aware of the data being submitted to Welsh Government and delivery against the Carbon Management Plan 2024-2030.
- (3) In order that the Cabinet were aware of the progress made against the Carbon Management Plan during 2024/25.
- (4) To thank staff for work undertaken in that area.

C182 CABINET QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAMMES – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY TO MARCH 2026 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – NO RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to involve, engage and consult Members of the progress to date in respect of Cabinet Quarterly Work Programmes for the period October to December 2025 and to confirm the Quarterly Work Programme for January to March 2026.

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 updates to the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme for October to December 2025 attached at Appendix 1 be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Quarterly Work Programme January to March 2026 attached at Appendix 2 be finalised and endorsed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To monitor progress.
- (2) To approve the Work Programme for January to March 2026.