

CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 15th 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.

C183 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.

C184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C185 INITIAL BUDGET 2026/27 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 TO 2030/31 PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – PERFORMANCE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to put forward the Council's budget proposals for consultation with residents, other stakeholders and the Council's Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Since the Financial Strategy was agreed in July 2025, the Council had kept to its guiding principles during the budget process with a focus on delivering Vale 2030 (the Council's Corporate Plan) and protecting schools and services that supported the most vulnerable. Significant pressures continued to be experienced as a result of rising demand and costs, for schools, additional learning needs and social care.

The Council had lobbied extensively alongside other Counties concerning the provisional settlement and the Leader expressed her thanks to colleagues in Local Authorities of all political parties across Wales for the concerted effort to lobby for the value of Local Government and the extent of services delivered to the public.

Council Tax was being modelled at a 5.5% increase which would enable the Council to invest in a number of services. Since austerity began, there had been a focus on being able to deliver statutory services and the settlement received in December 2025 would enable the Council to invest in services that the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan had said were important. Continuation of the Reshaping and Savings Programme would also enable the Council to make savings by working differently.

Were the budget to be agreed, the public would see further investment in the public realm and a further £1m for schools.

The Vale of Glamorgan had the 5th lowest Council Tax of all Welsh Counties and significantly below the national average, potentially becoming the 4th lowest against other Authorities even after a 5.5% rise if agreed based on other projected increases. This was a cause of concern when looking to fund the services that the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan wanted. Paragraph 1.1 of the report showed the Council was either low or very low in terms of expenditure on services, as the Council was cost-effective, but the ambition was to provide more.

A proposed 5.5% Council Tax increase on an average Band D property would equate to £90.99 a year, or £1.75 a week. However, the Council wanted to improve and develop services further and as part of the consultation over the coming weeks were asking the public whether Council Tax should be increased by a further 1%, or 31p a week, to provide an increase for Youth Services, investment in rural bus services and general realm improvements for Parks and Gardens. The Leader asked residents of the Vale of Glamorgan to take part in the consultation and looked forward to the debate that would take place at Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee in February.

Councillor Birch welcomed any further investment in Youth Services to support and provide warm and safe places for them to meet, provision of further educational opportunities and availability of sports facilities as a consequence of further youth provision.

Councillor Wilson said that residents of the Vale of Glamorgan were very proud of its parks and would welcome the return of the Green Flags accreditation, if agreed. Paragraph 2.90 of the report contained the consultation timetable for the budget and encouraged Community and Partners, including Trade Unions and Public Service Board to respond to the consultation over the coming month until 13th February. The proposals were a budget for growth as a result of the settlement from Welsh Government and it was important to listen to the public about their expectations.

Councillor Williams recognised that Social Services had to commission a number of services from external providers. The report highlighted the variety of services that the Council provided across all Directorates and hoped the public would support the proposals.

The Leader agreed that there were a huge range of services delivered by Local Authorities in Wales, numbering between 6 and 7k services each, that would not be delivered by anyone else if not provided by those Local Authorities.

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

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

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Council's updated financial position as set out in the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the revised funding and spend assumptions, along with the draft reshaping and saving proposals be approved and the report and appendices referred to Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee on 11th February 2026 for their consideration and debate, with Members' views being referred back to Cabinet on 26th February 2026.
- (3) T H A T the budget (including reshaping and savings proposals) as described in the body of the report and appendices be approved and published as the basis for consultation as described in the body of the report.
- (4) T H A T the fees and charges detailed in Appendix D be approved for consultation.
- (5) T H A T the underlying level of financial pressures not included in the proposals be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) It was important for Cabinet to be regularly appraised of the Council's medium term financial position.
- (2) Scrutiny was an essential part of the budget setting process and it was important that the funding and savings assumptions were validated and the savings proposals were realistic and deliverable and would not have any unintended impacts.
- (3) To ensure the savings proposals were consulted upon widely.
- (4) To ensure the fees and charges were consulted upon widely ahead of inclusion in the Draft Budget on 26th February 2026 for approval; fees and charges being a Cabinet function.
- (5) To ensure Cabinet was aware that work was in place to manage and mitigate those pressures but do nevertheless represent significant financial risk.

C186 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2026/27 TO 2030/31 CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR CONSULTATION (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – PERFORMANCE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to gain approval for the Draft Capital Programme Proposals for 2026/27 to 2030/31 so that they may be submitted to Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee for review, prior to the final Capital Proposals being presented to Members in February 2026.

The Capital Programme for 2026/27 as shown in Table 1 of the Executive Summary to the report was just over £129m and totalled just over £541m over the coming five year period. The provisional capital settlement would enable the initial capital programme proposals to be submitted to Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee for consultation and review.

There was an ambitious Capital Programme detailed in the report and its appendices and a need to build capacity in some areas, particularly project management, in order to deliver those programmes.

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 draft Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 be endorsed and the programme for consultation submitted to Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee.
- (2) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to a Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11th February 2026 for their consideration and debate, with any recommendations being referred back to Cabinet on 26th February 2025.
- (3) T H A T subject to Resolutions (1) and (2), the reprofile of the Housing Improvement Programme in line with the Housing Business Plan be approved as set out in paragraph 2.30 of the report.
- (4) T H A T the £2m Education Asset Renewal budget be allocated as set out in Appendix 1.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) In order to consult Members on the Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31.
- (2) In order that Cabinet be informed of the comments of Performance Joint Scrutiny Committee before making a proposal on the Capital Programme.
- (3) To reflect the work programme for the Housing Business Plan.
- (4) To allow asset renewal schemes to be carried out in 2026/27.

C187 ACTION TO PREVENT AND TACKLE POVERTY (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Leader presented the report to update on work being undertaken to tackle poverty and the cost-of-living crisis.

Data showed that there were issues of poverty and deprivation across the Vale of Glamorgan and the cost of living continued to cause hardship for some residents, with 7 Lower Layer Super Output Areas in the Vale of Glamorgan ranked in the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales, up from 3 in 2019. The Index was currently being analysed and Members would be briefed by the end of January.

Councillor Wilson said the report showed how much work the Council was engaged in with private partners and partners in the Third Sector. He referred to the Eco 4 Flex Scheme detailed in Paragraph 2.40 of the report as a scheme to help reduce the costs of heating homes and encouraged people to apply if they thought they may be eligible before the end of March 2026.

Councillor Perkes said that the Money Advice Service was there to help housing tenants who required support and the 30-year programme for building homes would assist in supporting residents' life-chances across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor John said that Welsh Government had announced a restricted number of free use of leisure services places for the benefit of residents.

The Leader said there was a large amount of data in the report which showed what was available for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and thanked Officers for the amount of support provided.

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 work being undertaken with regards to tackling poverty and the cost-of-living crisis as part of the delivery of Vale 2030 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the proposals for progressing a response to the latest data released as part of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation be approved and Cabinet to receive a further report on that and the Council's overall work to tackle poverty and the cost-of-living crisis in six months.
- (3) T H A T the use of the cost-of-living reserve to support those in need be noted.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure Cabinet was aware of the work being undertaken with regards to tackling poverty and the cost-of-living crisis which had been identified as a key challenge in Vale 2030.
- (2) To enable Cabinet to consider progress in addressing that area of work as a priority in Vale 2030 and to ensure the Council actively progressed work within the Vale of Glamorgan's most deprived communities.

- (3) To ensure that Cabinet was aware of the use of the cost-of-living reserve to date.

C188 CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW DELIVERY MODELS FOR ENHANCED AND SUSTAINABLE SPECIALIST PROVISION (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken on the proposal to create a new delivery model for enhanced and sustainable specialist provision.

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 Consultation Report (Appendix A);the Consultation Response Report (Appendix B);other Appendices included as part of the report, including the Community Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments at Appendices C and D respectively, as required under paragraph 3.6 of the School Organisation Code 2018, be approved to create new delivery models for enhanced and sustainable specialist provision.

(2) T H A T agreement be approved to proceed to the next statutory stage of the proposal to create new delivery models for enhanced and sustainable specialist provision, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory code.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that Cabinet considered all relevant information as required under the statutory Code in reaching a decision on whether to proceed to the next statutory stage of the proposal.

(2) To enable the Council to move to the next stage of the process by publishing a statutory notice, thereby allowing stakeholders a further opportunity to comment during the objection period and to ensure that there was capacity to provide a centre of excellence for social, emotional and mental health needs and provides a stimulating, rich environment and specialist staff to cater for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs on a full-time basis, reflecting the Council's commitments to meeting the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018 (ALNET Act 2018).

**C189 CONNECT TO WORK REGIONAL PROGRAMME (EAWL)
(SCRUTINY – START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request approval from Cabinet to enter into an agreement to deliver 'Connect to Work', a Department for Work and Pension (DWP) employability programme, to be delivered under a regional agreement with Cardiff Council and delegate specific powers to named officers and relevant portfolio holders relating to the local delivery of the project.

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 an overview of the UK Government's Connect to Work programme be noted.
- (2) T H A T approval be granted for the Learning and Skills Employability Team to enter into a regional agreement with all 10 South East Wales Local Authorities, with Cardiff Council acting as the Grant Recipient Body on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's behalf.
- (3) T H A T approval be granted to work with Cardiff Council as the Grant Recipient Body Central Team, who would oversee the implementation and management of the Connect to Work Programme across the South-East Wales region.
- (4) T H A T approval be granted for the Connect to Work team to sit within Learning and Skills as part of the Communities for Work Plus employability team in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- (5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Learning and Skills (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable the Vale of Glamorgan Council to enter into a legal agreement through a back to back Contract/SLA or MOU with Cardiff to progress this work.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) The delivery of Connect to Work provided a significant opportunity to provide additional support to residents who were economically inactive due to long-term health conditions. Over the lifetime of the programme, it was expected that over 9,500 people across the region (including over 275 in the Vale of Glamorgan) would benefit from specialist support.

- (2) To approve closer regional alignment on the Connect to Work programme, ensuring shared working arrangements with the other South East Wales Local Authority areas under the oversight of the Grant Recipient body.
- (3) To acknowledge and agree the Grant Recipients body's role and authorise officers to align with terms and conditions.
- (4) To ensure alignment of staff and project concept within the Learning and Skills Directorate to support the Connect to Work development.
- (5) To obtain authority to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable the Connect to Work project to progress.

**C190 REVISED STREET SCHEME STRATEGY (2026-2031) (NBS)
(SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek authority to approve a new “Street Scene” based cleansing service incorporating priorities of Place Making.

Councillor Wilson said there had been a pilot for soft plastics collection in Penarth that had been extremely successful and was pleased for similar provision to be rolled out across the Vale of Glamorgan and work towards reducing the amount of residual waste.

The report also discussed improvements to the street scene as a result of a reimbursement of £3.8m through the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme. The three options considered were detailed in Paragraph 2.15 of the report, with Option 3 being the preferred option, adding £1m of investment alongside realigned budgets. Teams would be proactive and reactive and use new technologies to assist with their work, provide a quicker turnaround and avoid delays. As part of Option 3, there was also a focus on community involvement and working with the Council's partners on delivery.

Alongside residents and partners, the Council was working to fight climate change with increased use of electric vehicles and sustainable technology to reduce the carbon footprint.

The report would be considered further by Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20th January 2026.

Councillor Brooks said it was an exciting initiative and would work alongside the Placemaking plans for the four towns and elsewhere.

The Leader said that the reimbursement of the Extended Producer Responsibility funding was in part as a result of the performance and contribution of Vale of Glamorgan residents, making the Vale Council one of the top performers in terms of recycling rates which had been translated into financial support and passed on her thanks to residents in the Vale of Glamorgan for all their efforts. Councillor Wilson also thanked the Officers and operatives concerned.

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 reimbursement of £3.8m from PackUK, this financial year, for managing packaging waste in 2021/22 through the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR), be noted.
- (2) T H A T the rebranding of Street Cleansing and replacing it with a new modern Street Scene service that would be focused on engagement and seek to increase community involvement and participation be approved in principle.
- (3) T H A T the allocation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as detailed within the report be agreed in principle.
- (4) T H A T the Neighbourhood Services revenue budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27, as detailed within the report be amended and approved in principle.
- (5) T H A T the repurposing and creation of the posts identified within the report be approved in principle.
- (6) T H A T weekly kerbside collections of soft plastics utilising EPR funding be rolled out across the Vale of Glamorgan on a permanent basis, from 13th April 2026.
- (7) T H A T the use of the Council's urgent decision procedure, as set out at section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution, be agreed for Resolution (6) of the report.
- (8) T H A T the report be referred to the Place Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- (9) T H A T in view of no recommendations being received from the above Committee, Resolutions (1) to (5) be agreed.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) So that Cabinet was sighted on the year's EPR payment in respect of the assessment year 2021/22.
- (2-5) To ensure the "in principle" agreement of Cabinet to the Resolutions, prior to them being considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.
- (6) To extend the kerbside collection of soft plastics to all residents across the Vale of Glamorgan.

(7) So the arrangements for the kerbside collection of soft plastics could be facilitated due to the lead time of up to 12-weeks to order bags, arrange deliveries and design the appropriate literature.

(8) To permit consideration of those matters by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

(9) To permit all recommendations to be taken forward as promptly as possible.

C191 OBJECTION REPORT: PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO) FOR THE 20MPH DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT REVIEW ON RESTRICTED ROAD WITHIN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN'S LOCAL HIGHWAY NETWORK (NBS) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to advise Cabinet of objections received and to propose an appropriate way forward.

Councillor Wilson said evidence following the introduction of the 20mph default speed limit had shown there had been fewer accidents, fewer injuries and fewer fatalities as a result.

The report detailed the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) legal process required when proposing any change to speed limits and the subsequent consultation and responses to the related proposals.

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 objections to the proposal for Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge for the reasons stated in the report be accepted

(2) T H A T having considered all other objections, as outlined in the report, it be determined that they did not warrant amendment and approved the proposed changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable the changes to the speed limits to be implemented.

(3) That the objectors be advised of those decisions.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the existing 20mph speed limit to be retained, reflecting the comments from the public consultation.

(2) To permit the proposed order to be amended and implemented, as reflected in the comments from the public consultation.

- (3) To ensure that all those who took part in the TRO consultation were advised of the outcome of the process.

C192 GOVERNANCE OF THE COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELSH (LOCAL AUTHORITY) ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES – QUORACY OF THE NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE FOR WALES AND FOSTER WALES (SCH) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to obtain agreement to a 'Deed of Variation' to amend the quoracy required for the National Joint Committee meetings.

Councillor Williams said it had been difficult to get representatives from all 22 Welsh Authorities together at the same time and the report sought to make the change to allow the Joint Committee to meet more regularly and enable oversight of the collaborative arrangements for adoption and fostering services.

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 quorum of the Joint Committee be reduced to 40%, with at least 3 regional areas represented.
- (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into the Deed of Variation on behalf of the Council to enable that.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Agreeing the proposal would enable the Joint Committee to meet and undertake its functions on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority thus enabling the oversight by it of the collaborative arrangements for adoption and fostering services.
- (2) To ensure that the agreement for the change was reflected in the appropriate documentation.