

## **CABINET**

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 30th April 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 and S. Sivagnanam.

### **C267 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.

### **C268 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**

These were received from Councillors E. Williams and M.R. Wilson.

### **C269 MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2026 be approved as a correct record.

### **C270 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **C271 TASK AND FINISH REVIEW – ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS RESOURCE BASES (REF) –**

The reference from Start Well Scrutiny Committee dated 23rd March 2026 was presented.

The Cabinet Member said that Additional Learning Needs (ALN) was the first Task and Finish topic considered by Start Well Scrutiny Committee and was a topic that had changed dramatically over the last few years. Task and Finish Working Group Members visited some of the eleven Specialist Resource Bases (SRB) in the Vale of Glamorgan, including six Primary and two Secondary Schools.

Task and Finish Working Group considered matters including funding, staff ratios and criterion for children to access SRBs which better informed Members of the Committee about the systems in place to support children with ALN. Councillor Birch

said that she had received positive comments following the visits as Members of the Task and Finish Working Group had better understanding of the difficulties that the children and staff were facing in looking after and educating those with extra or special needs. Also considered as part of the work were the environments in which children were taught, the curriculum, sensory rooms and the different forms of support that were on offer.

The Task and Finish Group subsequently made several recommendations for Cabinet to consider which were listed in Paragraph 2.43 of the report, some of which were outside Cabinet control, but a number of which could be looked at going forward including funding and budget setting, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Health and Education services, consistency, data collection and tracking, access, parental engagement, transport and strategic planning.

In conclusion, the Group's overall conclusion was that the ALN provision across the Vale of Glamorgan provided high quality, child centred accessible education tailored to the needs of the learner, but some significant strategic risks were identified including grants and the cost of therapy and staff retention and recruitment difficulties. As such, it was important to work with the Education Department about the contents of the report and to assess the findings of the Task and Finish Working Group.

The Leader said that the piece of work would inform thinking going forward after the work had been completed.

**RESOLVED – T H A T** Start Well Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Working Group be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the report and the recommendations in the report be referred to the Education Department for further consideration, with a report to be brought back to Cabinet to address the recommendations going forward.

#### Reason for decision

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

### **C272            REVIEW OF PILOT LEISURE ACTIVITY AT COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK (REF) –**

The reference from Place Scrutiny Committee dated 24th March 2026 was presented.

The Deputy Leader said that Place Scrutiny had considered the matter following the Cabinet report considered on 5th February 2026 concerning the pilot that had taken place over the summer period in 2025.

At the meeting, the Director gave a thorough presentation to Scrutiny and Committee received eight written representations from members of the public and groups in relation to the pilot which covered a number of concerns which were listed on Page 2 of the reference. There were also two public speakers who raised several points and

concerns which were responded to by the Director at the meeting. The Deputy Leader was also invited to speak and laid out the importance of blue and green spaces across the County, stressed the ongoing importance of encouraging people to use those spaces, ensuring they remained sustainable for the future and funding of improvements such as new facilities and ecological work going forward.

Cabinet at its February meeting resolved to take a pause for a year before any further recommendations were considered about potential further activity at Cosmeston to allow the Council to make comprehensive evaluations on matters including water testing, environmental changes to habitat and ecological work. It was important to keep an open mind until all the results of ongoing testing were known and any future decisions based on evidence.

Committee made one recommendation to Cabinet for consideration, that the precautionary principle should be applied and the maximum weighting be given to the protection of the ecosystem of the lakes at Cosmeston Country Park, with no weighting given to Council income when the Council considered an aqua park and similar activities at Cosmeston Country Park and its lakes.

RESOLVED – T H A T Place Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the recommendation be noted at this time, and referred for consideration as part of the evaluation and testing taking place over the coming year and further considered as part of the future report to be proposed to Cabinet.

#### Reason for decision

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

### **C273            QUARTER 3 REVENUE MONITORING 2025/26 (REF) –**

The reference from Resources Scrutiny Committee dated 25th March 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that Committee had looked at unplanned use of reserves and school balances, as well as a discussion concerning an appraisal comparing the cost-effectiveness of insourcing versus the Council's current position of contracting out road maintenance activities.

Committee made one recommendation to Cabinet, that an appraisal of insourcing versus outsourcing pothole repair services be provided to the Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Leader said that it was not for Cabinet to determine and was a matter for the Committee and its own Forward Work Programme, however there was a question about flexibility of workforce at certain times, and a larger workforce enabled mobilisation of larger numbers of staff.

RESOLVED – T H A T Resources Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and the reference noted, and that Committee should consider if an appraisal of insourcing versus outsourcing pothole repair services

should be provided to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and added to their Forward Work Programme for future consideration.

Reason for decision

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

**C274 TASK AND FINISH REVIEW – ON PROVIDING GREATER ACCESSIBILITY TO BEACHES IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (REF) –**

The reference from Extraordinary Place Scrutiny Committee dated 1st April 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that Committee had an in-depth look at the matter that would inform many discussions going forward. Appendix A to the report detailed an Action Plan which provided an opportunity for future applications for Brilliant Basics funding.

Committee had considered the matter and endorsed the Action Plan which would be regularly monitored by the Committee and referred the matter to Cabinet for consideration. The findings and recommendations of the report and review on providing greater accessibility to beaches in the Vale of Glamorgan by the Task and Finish Group were contained in paragraph 2.5 of the report.

The Leader said it was important to recognise the amount of work that had been done on accessibility recently, including improvements to toilets, changing facilities and showers, as well as the provision of eight new free to hire beach wheelchairs at Barry Island.

Most of the recommendations were Committee specific, but Cabinet would pass the Action Plan on to Officers to determine how to take the work forward and either bring a report back to Cabinet or Scrutiny, as most appropriate.

RESOLVED – T H A T Place Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Working Group be thanked for their consideration of the matter and the reference be noted, with the Action Plan passed on to Officers to determine how to take the work forward and either bring a report back to Cabinet or Scrutiny, as most appropriate.

Reason for decision

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

**C275 HMRC MILEAGE CLAIMS (REF) –**

The reference from Joint Consultative Forum dated 20th April 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that the Joint Consultative Forum (JCF) was a forum where Unions and groups representing staff would discuss various issues, areas of concern or positive matters.

In this case they had made a specific reference for Cabinet consideration in relation to HMRC mileage claims, where it was felt that the way in which costs were rising for those using their own cars and claiming mileage had not kept pace with those rising costs.

JCF subsequently recommended -

1) T H A T Cabinet be asked to consider that the Council write to the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, and HMRC, to support a review and increase of the national HMRC base mileage allowance rate, as a matter of urgency, noting that the rate had not changed for approximately 15 years and that rising fuel costs were impacting lower-paid staff.

2) T H A T Cabinet be asked to consider that the Council engage with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to encourage a co-ordinated approach across all 22 Welsh Local Authorities in making representations to HMRC and national government on supporting a review and increase of the national HMRC base mileage allowance rate.

The Leader said that the Vale of Glamorgan Council as an organisation had pool cars for staff use as well as a proportion of electric vehicles which worked towards reducing the Authority's carbon emissions but appreciated that some staff had to use their own cars. It was not the Authority's position that staff should not be any worse off because of such rising costs but there were then some implications such as for tax as a result.

Having spoken with colleagues in other Local Authorities, the Leader said the issue had been recognised by them also and felt there was a need to speak from a point of understanding and evidence, it was proposed that Cabinet note Recommendation (1) and accept Recommendation (2) to work with the WLGA to look at the views of the other Local Authorities in Wales. Once that evidence was available, representation could be made to HMRC and National Government on supporting a review if the evidence supported such a representation, which would also then resolve Recommendation (1).

The Leader said she sat on the WLGA Finance Sub-Committee as the current Presiding Member and would make sure that the matter was discussed with other Local Authorities.

RESOLVED – T H A T Joint Consultative Forum be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that Recommendation (1) be noted, with Cabinet accepting Recommendation (2) to work with the WLGA to look at the views of the other Local Authorities in Wales. Once that evidence was available, representation could be made to HMRC and National Government on supporting a review if the evidence supported such a representation, which would also then resolve Recommendation (1).

#### Reason for decision

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

**C276 HOUSING KITCHEN, WETROOM AND BATHROOM REPLACEMENT SCHEME 2025-26 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval for delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing Kitchen, Wetroom and Bathroom Replacement Scheme 2025-26.

Councillor Perkes advised that the rolling programme of kitchen, bathroom, wetroom and electrical upgrades would benefit 333 properties in the Vale of Glamorgan which were due for replacement across the Council's housing stock portfolio within the next 24 months to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (2023).

The proposal followed a procurement process whereby companies were asked to bid on the implementation of the required works, and the detail would be considered further under the related Part II item on the meeting agenda.

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 contents of the report be noted, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To update Cabinet on the current position regarding the procurement of the Housing Kitchen, Wetroom and Bathroom Replacement Scheme 2025-26.

**C277 HOUSING 41-51A MAIN STREET RETROFIT PROJECT 2026-27 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval for delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing 41-51a Main Street Retrofit Project 2026-27.

The proposal followed a procurement process whereby companies were asked to bid on the implementation of the required works, and the detail would be considered further under the related Part II item on the meeting agenda.

The Leader said it was important to remember that although the Council was building new housing, its existing housing stock had not been forgotten and was being maintained to a good standard.

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 contents of the report be noted, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on the agenda.

Reason for decision

To update Cabinet on the current position regarding the procurement of the Housing 41-51a Main Street Retrofit Project 2026-27.

**C278 DISPOSAL OF SMALL PARCELS OF HOUSING OWNED LAND (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval to dispose of three small parcels of non-operational housing land.

Councillor Perkes said that Council land not being used had a cost to the Council and it was important to review Council owned land and to discharge any small parcels of land accordingly.

The Leader agreed that reduction of costs related to Council land that could be declared as surplus to Council requirements was important.

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 parcels of Housing land shown at Appendices A, B and C be declared as surplus to Council requirements.
- (2) T H A T the disposal of the land shown on the plans at Appendix A, B and C, under sections 32-34 of the Housing Act 1985 be approved, relying on the General Consents for the Disposal of Houses and Land 1994.
- (3) T H A T, in respect of the land at Appendices B and C, the advertising of the proposed disposals under section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved, and that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement, and Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer to undertake and manage the marketing of land (where applicable), consider external valuation advice, agree the method of disposal, and terms and conditions of any sale.

(4) T H A T the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to prepare, complete and execute the necessary legal documentation to formalise any disposals, subject to the above recommendations.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the Council to dispose of surplus Housing owned land in accordance with its Constitution and statutory powers.

(2) To enable the lawful disposal of surplus Housing owned land under sections 32–34 of the Housing Act 1985 and the General Consents for the Disposal of Houses and Land 1994, and to secure best consideration for the Council.

(3) To ensure compliance with section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of land that may be considered public open space, and to provide transparency through statutory advertising and consideration of any representations received. To facilitate the disposal process efficiently and appropriately, and on suitable terms and conditions.

(4) To enable the legal completion of the disposals and ensure appropriate documentation was prepared and executed in accordance with statutory and governance requirements.

#### **C279 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –**

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

#### **C280 HOUSING KITCHEN, WETROOM AND BATHROOM REPLACEMENT SCHEME 2025-26 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval for delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing Kitchen, Wetroom and Bathroom Replacement Scheme 2025-26.

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 award of the Housing Kitchen, Wetroom and Bathroom Replacement Scheme 2025-26 contract to SMK Building & Maintenance Ltd be approved.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement to accept the most advantageous tender and to prepare and execute a JCT Measured Term Contract 2024 with SMK Building & Maintenance Ltd.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, which require contracts with a value in excess of £300k to be agreed by Cabinet.

(2) To enable the contract documentation to be finalised with the successful contractor.

**C281 HOUSING 41-51A MAIN STREET RETROFIT PROJECT 2026-27 (PSHTE) (SCRUTINY – PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to request Cabinet approval for delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Housing 41-51a Main Street Retrofit Project 2026-27.

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 award of the Housing 41-51a Main Street Retrofit Project 2026-27 contract to K & C Pearce Ltd be approved.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement to accept the most advantageous tender and to prepare and execute a JCT Intermediate Contract with K & C Pearce Ltd.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, which require contracts with a value in excess of £300k to be agreed by Cabinet.

(2) To enable the contract documentation to be finalised with the successful contractor.