CABINET

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 23rd July 2026.

The Committee agenda is available here.

The Meeting recording is available here.

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

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 Dr. I.J. Johnson.

C40 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.

C41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

C42 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2026 be approved as a correct record.

C43 AUDIT WALES: RECRUITMENT & RETENTION CHALLENGES – THE RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME (REF) –

The reference from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting dated 22nd June 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that the Audit Wales report was attached to the report as Appendix A with the Council's response attached as Appendix B. Governance and Audit Committee had requested some further data and information relating to workforce risk including key pressure areas for recruitment and retention which would be provided to them by the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.

Governance and Audit Committee noted the report findings from Audit Wales' review of the Council's response to its recruitment and retention challenges, (Appendix A) and the response to the review findings and Audit Wales' recommendations.

RESOLVED – T H A T Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the reference be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C44 CORPORATE RISK: QUARTER 4 UPDATE AND END OF YEAR POSITION ON RISKS (REF) –

The reference from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting dated 22nd June 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that the Committee had requested more information on the Scrutiny Task and Finish Review report into Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Resources Bases which the Leader said could be provided to them and was important for Committee to have as ALN and school financial pressures were some of the Council's biggest current risks.

Governance and Audit Committee also suggested that the level of risk for the Climate Change risk be reviewed which would be taken up between Democratic Services and the Committee.

As part of Resolutions (1) and (2) for Cabinet consideration, Governance and Audit Committee noted the Quarter 4/End of Year position of corporate risks outlined in the Risk Summary Report and the Strategic Leadership Team's consideration of the responses to the Governance and Audit Committee's comments for Quarter 3.

It was also requested in Resolution (3) that Cabinet be requested to approve delegated authority for the Director of Corporate Resources to update the Risk Management Policy. The Leader said that Cabinet would be happy to consider a formal request for such a delegation to be agreed if one were made.

Resolutions (5) and (6) requested that additional information be provided to the Governance and Audit Committee relating to the Scrutiny review into Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases and that a review of the risk scoring relating to the Climate Change Risk to be undertaken, which would be taken up between Democratic Services and the Committee.

RESOLVED – T H A T Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the reference be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C45 Q4 2025/26 PROGRESS AGAINST EXTERNAL REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS (REF) –

The reference from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting dated 22nd June 2026 was presented.

Governance and Audit Committee noted the progress in addressing external regulatory recommendations as detailed in the appended Strategic Insight Board Insight Tracker for the period Q4 2025/26 and that the Director of Corporate Resources would consider providing future iterations of the Quarter position earlier to the Governance and Audit Committee.

Cabinet were requested to endorse the removal of completed actions from the Insight Tracker. The Leader said that was not a Cabinet function and was a matter for the Insight Board to consider.

RESOLVED – T H A T Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter and that the reference be noted.

Reason for decision

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

C46 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE 2025/26 UPDATE (REF) –

The reference from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting dated 20th July 2026 was presented.

Governance and Audit Committee noted the Statement on Compliance with the Financial Management Code and the Contents of the Review as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and also recommended that there should be greater involvement and engagement with the Youth Council particularly in regard to Scrutiny. The Leader agreed and said the voice of young people was something the Council was constantly trying to access.

The Committee also recommended that there be greater emphasis on Corporate Complaints following the shift in responsibility from C1V to Democratic Services to ensure that that function remained effective and to ensure timescales around responding to complaints were reviewed. Members also felt that there should be greater emphasis on Member involvement around Directorate self-assessments and budget setting processes, which had also been a focus of discussion and a recommendation from the Joint Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2026. It was something that had been discussed as the Cabinet wanted as much input as possible into discussions. All Scrutiny Chairs were invited to challenge sessions before opening discussions up to Scrutiny Committee Members.

Committee also asked Cabinet to consider the introduction of a Budget Working Group to allow Elected Members to delve deeper into budgetary and saving Proposals, which was another matter already under discussion.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Governance and Audit Committee be thanked for their consideration of the matter.

(2) T H A T the following comments for areas for improvement be agreed as already being progressed:

- Greater involvement and engagement with the Youth Council particularly in regard to Scrutiny;
- Focus and greater emphasis on Corporate Complaints following the shift in responsibility from C1V to Democratic Services to ensure that that function remains effective and to ensure timescales around responding to complaints are reviewed;
- Greater emphasis on Member involvement around Directorate self-assessments and budget setting processes.

(3) T H A T the introduction of a Budget Working Group to allow Elected Members to delve deeper into budgetary and saving proposals be further considered.

Reason for decisions

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the reference and discussions at the meeting.

C47 UPDATED MULTI-LOCATION MEETINGS (MLM) POLICY (REF) –

The reference from the Democratic Services Committee meeting dated 29th June 2026 was presented.

The Leader referred Cabinet Members to Page 13 of Appendix A which contained a table of meetings conducted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council that would be held in either a hybrid or remote capacity. The Table referred to remote meetings of the Discretionary Housing Payments Review and Trust Committee, both of which had been included in error following their agreed removal from the Constitution by Full Council at its meeting held on 13th July 2026, which was noted.

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

(2) T H A T a review of the Policy be undertaken upon receipt of any further statutory guidance from Welsh Government, any accessibility requirements and the Council's Public Participation obligations, as well as continue to have conversations as to how the Policy can be improved.

Reason for decisions

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

C48 DRAFT MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2027-32 (REF) –

The reference from the Democratic Services Committee meeting dated 29th June 2026 was presented.

The Leader said that there was a lot for new Council Members to learn in a very short time once elected and the Draft Strategy for 2027-32 looked to support both new and exiting Councillors with their core knowledge, skills and legislative requirements.

Page 11 of Appendix A to the original report detailed a timeline as to how the Strategy would be delivered using a phased approach which would include the key themes detailed on Page 16 of Appendix A. It was essential that all Members at an early point in their career understood democracy and governance, how the Council made decisions and how the Authority worked. Local Government finance and financial responsibilities were particularly important matters as Members would soon be considering budget monitoring.

Democratic Services Committee had considered the Draft Strategy and endorsed that the topics contained within the table attached at Appendix B to the Report, including the learning areas which were considered essential (mandatory) or recommended (non-essential) be included as part of the refresh of the Member Development Strategy. This was noted by Cabinet.

Councillor John said that it could take up to two years for new Councillors to be accustomed with their new responsibilities and all Members should take up the opportunities available within the Strategy to support them and make them a better Councillor.

Councillor Williams said the Council had changed and transformed considerably in recent years and it was important for all Members to understand how the Council worked. The Strategy offered Members opportunities to develop with new ways of working and support provided that had not previously existed.

The Leader emphasised that learning and training was ongoing for new Members, and it was important to take advantage of the support and training provided in order to be informed and support residents of the Vale of Glamorgan fully.

RESOLVED – T H A T the refreshed Member Development Strategy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved to inform the development of the future Member Induction Programme.

Reason for decision

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

C49 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2027/28 TO 2031/32 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to set the strategy for development of the Council's 2027/28 Budget and 2027/28 to 2031/32 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Page 7 of the report detailed the net expenditure of the Council with Schools and Social Care as an ever-increasing proportion of Council resources accounting for almost 70% of the total budget, leaving all of the other services the Council provided in the remaining 30%. Paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 of the report detailed the gap in the current forecast and cost pressures for 2027/28, and the assumed Council Tax for planning purposes in Paragraph 1.10.

One of the most serious risks to the Authority outlined by the Leader concerned school deficits and funding for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) due to increased demand and complexity. It was a nationwide issue with associated accumulated deficits in England in 2025/26 of over £3.3Bn. Councils in England were allowed to address the issue via a statutory override, which meant the matter did not have to be addressed as part of normal budget setting. The Local Government Association in England calculated that without that override, 8 out of 10 Councils in England may have faced bankruptcy.

More recently, funding had been provided in England to account for 90% of that deficit which left English Authorities in a better position. In Wales, Authorities faced equal if not greater pressures on ALN budgetary issues and as a consequence of the funding made available to Authorities in England, Westminster had provided an amount of £322m in consequential funding to Wales but was not ring-fenced for ALN and as such there were ongoing discussions whether those consequentials would be spent on ALN.

ALN remained one of the Council's largest pressures. Local Authorities would argue that the £322m in support should be divided amongst all the Authorities, which would amount to £13.1m for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and would make a difference in supporting young people. If, as requested in the Senedd, it should be £100m across all Authorities, that would amount to £4.4m for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It had also been stated that the amount for Authorities would be £40m, which would amount to £1.7m for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and leave the Authority with large budgetary pressures as a result.

Decisions were due to be made on the consequentials over the next few months and regardless of the decision, it would have an impact on the Vale of Glamorgan Council budget. The Leader wanted to make Cabinet fully aware of the implications of whatever decision the Welsh Government would make and hoped that a constructive outcome could be found for young people.

The report was to be referred to Resources Scrutiny Committee for a more in-depth discussion and to review the Financial Strategy and funding and cost assumptions and for any recommendations to be fed back to Cabinet.

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 challenging financial position faced by the Council be noted, with a funding gap of £9.987m in 2027/28 and £42.451m across the medium term.

(2) T H A T Cabinet would continue to lobby Welsh Government for an appropriate settlement in the face of the continued inflationary pressures on schools and social care provision and authorised Council Officers to do the same through appropriate networks.

(3) T H A T the accelerated budget setting timetable be noted.

(4) T H A T Officers be requested to review the cost pressures and savings commitments across the summer.

(5) T H A T Officers be requested to develop proposals against the redefined transformation programme, the Reshaping Programme, to complement the Financial Strategy and contribute to the medium term financial sustainability of the Council.

(6) T H A T the report be referred to the Council's Resources Scrutiny Committee to review the Financial Strategy and assumptions made on costs and funding in the Medium Term Financial Plan refresh and for any recommendations to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

(7) T H A T a further report on the Council's budget be presented to Cabinet in due course as outlined in the report.

<u>Reasons for decisions</u>

(1) There continued to be significant financial pressures impacting on the 2027/28 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2027/28 to 2031/32 and it was essential to inform Cabinet of the magnitude of the challenge and for work to commence as early as possible on establishing a balanced budget and sustainable financial position in the medium term.

(2) The challenges could not be overstated at the time and many of the cost pressures could not be fully mitigated. A significantly better settlement than was currently forecast would be essential if there were not to be reductions in service provision.

(3) Early decision making would enable extended consultation and improve deliverability of savings and reshaping proposals.

(4) There were a number of strategies to balancing the budget other than attracting more funding and delivering savings. Costs would also need to be managed.

(5) To enable the medium term financial sustainability of the Council to be strengthened by a new iteration of the Reshaping Programme.

(6) The Council was open to clear and transparent financial reporting and an appropriate level of challenge to the management of its finances. A key element of the challenge process was through the Council's scrutiny function.

(7) Given the financial challenges, clear and regular reporting was essential.

C50 DEBT STRATEGY (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report to provide greater transparency on the level of outstanding invoiced income and the measures that the Council already had put in place to effect recovery and the ongoing strategy to manage it further.

Most historic debt was in the Social Services area where there were often complex challenges regarding collection, ether working sensitively with families, care homes, Local Authorities of Health Boards, and Officers continued to work to support families and provide assistance. Working more digitally going forward would enable more oversight of where there may be issues.

Paragraph 4.6 of the report detailed the exceptional circumstances as to why Cabinet were being requested to authorise the write-off of two historical debts that were considered as not recoverable despite all reasonable actions to recover outstanding income having been carried out. The Leader thanked the Finance and Social Care Teams for all the work that had gone into managing outstanding invoiced income.

Councillor John was pleased to see there was a Debt Strategy in place and would be managed internally going forward. It was unfortunate that Cabinet had to consider the write-off of outstanding debt, but both were irrecoverable as the companies involved were no longer trading.

Councillor Williams said it could be difficult for certain aspects of debt collection within Social Services as often families were unaware of any issues and sometimes would become aware at a difficult time. Officers were conscious of individual family's challenging circumstances and personal circumstances but were communicating more proactively and keeping in touch with families.

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 Debt Strategy as set out in the body of the report be approved.

(2) T H A T the two debts set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report be Written off.

Reasons for decisions

(1) A specific Strategy and approach would give greater focus and deliver improved performance in managing the Council's finite resources.

(2) To Write off of debt over £10k was a Cabinet function.

C51 ACTION TO PREVENT AND TACKLE POVERTY (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL) –

The Leader presented the report to provide an update on work being undertaken across the Council and in partnership to tackle poverty, and to respond to the cost-of-living crisis in the period October 2025 to April 2026. The report demonstrated progress against commitments in Vale 2030 to tackle and prevent poverty.

There were a number of areas that experienced deprivation in the Vale of Glamorgan as detailed in the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, which included one area in the Western Vale as a result of transport deprivation and was looking to be addressed by the funding that was ring-fenced in the previous year's budget for rural transport.

Councillor Perkes said the report sought to help people who were experiencing poverty in a number of ways and that good quality, affordable housing was an important factor in that, as well as Social Services, education, transport, leisure, employment advice or with ALN support.

Councillor John said the report showed that the Council was doing an awful lot to support local people.

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 with regards to work being undertaken to tackle poverty as part of the delivery of Vale 2030 as detailed in Appendices A and B and the work

undertaken as detailed in Appendix C as part of the Strengthening Communities theme of the Reshaping Programme be noted.

(2) T H A T having considered the information detailed in Appendices A, B and C, the steps identified by Strategic Leadership Team to further progress work to tackle poverty be approved.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure Cabinet was aware of the work being undertaken with regards to tackling poverty which has been identified as a key challenge in Vale 2030.

(2) To maintain momentum with regards to work tackle poverty and ensure that work across the Council formed part of a strategic and integrated approach to tackling poverty.

C52 WAYCOCK CROSS TO CARDIFF AIRPORT ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE (DL/SP) (SCRUTINY – PLACE) –

The Deputy Leader presented the report to update Cabinet on the development of the Waycock Cross to Cardiff Airport Active Travel Route, outline progress to date, and seek approval for delegated powers and funding arrangements to progress delivery.

Councillor Williams said that the Waycock Cross area was important to the Vale of Glamorgan and would look to reduce the number of cars from the Western Vale and encourage more cyclists along the route. He was pleased to see the link from east to west.

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 made on design, statutory approvals, and preparatory work for the Waycock Cross to Cardiff Airport Active Travel Route be noted.

(2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, and Head of Finance / Operational Manager Financial Services to proceed with land negotiations, tender preparation, funding applications, procurement of required professional services and contractors and the evaluation and award of contracts necessary to deliver the project.

(3) T H A T the submission of external funding bids to the Regional Transport Authority to secure delivery funding for the scheme be endorsed.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services to progress with a tender for construction of the scheme and to accept the preferred tender(s) following the evaluation and completion of the tender process.

(5) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to progress and enter into a New Engineering Contract (NEC) for the construction of the scheme, following a successful tender and contractor appointment.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Housing and Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places, the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, the Chief Executive, and Head of Finance/S151 Officer / Operational Manager Financial Services to enter negotiations for the acquisition of land (indicated in Appendices A-G) required for construction for the scheme, whether by financial consideration or other mutually agreed means.

(7) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete all necessary legal documentation associated with the acquisition of land.

(8) T H A T the need and use of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in the public interest be endorsed, should land negotiations fail to proceed.

(9) T H A T the report be referred to Full Council for consideration of the use of delegated powers regarding the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders as a function of Full Council.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To keep Cabinet informed of progress on design development, statutory approvals, and preparatory work for the Waycock Cross to Cardiff Airport Active Travel Route, ensuring transparency and oversight of this strategic infrastructure project.

(2) To enable timely delivery of the scheme by granting delegated authority for land negotiations, tender preparation, and funding applications. The approach avoided delays that could arise from returning to Cabinet for each operational decision.

(3) To secure external funding opportunities from the Regional Transport Authority, reducing reliance on Council resources and supporting the Council's commitment to sustainable transport and active travel objectives.

(4) To enable the timely progression of the construction tender for the scheme. The approach ensured the project could advance without delay, maintained

continuity in delivery, and allowed procurement activity to be managed efficiently within established operational and governance frameworks. It also supported the Council's commitment to delivering the scheme within planned timescales and budget parameters by allowing necessary decisions to be taken promptly as the project developed.

(5) To allow efficient progression to construction by delegating authority to enter into a New Engineering Contract (NEC) for the first and second phases, which ensured compliance with procurement regulations and accelerated project delivery.

(6) To facilitate completion of the first and second phase by authorising land acquisition as detailed in Appendices A-G, ensuring that all necessary land was secured for the full implementation of the route.

(7) To ensure that all legal documentation required for the land acquisition was completed efficiently and in accordance with statutory, regulatory, and governance requirements. The delegation enabled the necessary legal processes to progress without delay, supported timely delivery of the project, and ensured that all agreements, contracts, and associated documents were executed correctly to protect the Council's legal and financial interests.

(8) To safeguard the public interest and project viability by endorsing the potential use of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers should negotiations fail, ensuring that the scheme could proceed without undue delay.

(9) To comply with governance requirements by confirming that a further report would be presented to Full Council, as Cabinet does not hold delegated powers to authorise the use of CPOs which maintained legal and constitutional integrity.

C53 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2025-2026 (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the Council's progress against the Welsh Language Standards (Appendix 1) and against the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (Appendix 2) for 2025/26.

Councillor Birch referred Cabinet to Pages 26 to 34 of Appendix 1 to the report which detailed some of the achievements over the 2025/26 period, all of which demonstrated serving the needs of the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan and the Council's commitment to the Welsh language.

The Leader said it was pleasing to see more and more Welsh being used in day-to-day work and provided reassurance to residents who wished to communicate in Welsh that it would be welcomed.

Councillor Williams said the use of Welsh in Social Services was recognised and that Welsh Government promoted the Welsh language through key initiatives like 'Mwy na geiriau' / 'More than just words'.

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 Annual Welsh Monitoring Report for 2025/26 (Appendix 1) and Update on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2025/26 (Appendix 2) be approved in principle, subject to consideration by Live Well and Resources Scrutiny Committees.

(2) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to Live Well and Resources Scrutiny Committees for their consideration and for any recommendations to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration. Should both Committees have no recommendations, that the report be considered as approved and published accordingly.

Reasons for decisions

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

(2) To enable Live Well and Resources Scrutiny Committees to consider the report and appendices prior to publication of the final approved report.

C54 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2025-2026 – FINAL VERSION (SCH) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to consider and approve the Final Version of the Director's Annual Report for 2025-26 following feedback from partners.

The report covered the whole of the Social Services Directorate as well as across the Authority, as well as the links to the partnerships that the Council was involved with. The overall position at the end of 2025/26 reported increased demand, an ageing population, increasing numbers of children requiring intervention and care with growing complexities of need. Social Services were supporting more people than ever before which brought with it financial pressures across both Adult and Social Services. The Directorate were responding more quickly to demand and looked to support people to live independently wherever possible with more people able to remain in their own homes.

The development of the Vale Family Compass had provided families with one easy place to access information and support and were able to provide support earlier to try and prevent more complex requirements over time. The numbers of Children Looked After had stabilised, and the development of three residential children's homes had seen huge benefits.

Social Services continued to change and adapt in order to meet the needs of Vale of Glamorgan residents including changes to digital services, updates to the care records system and data migration and ongoing staff training. There had been a lot of demand on staff including relocation from the Dock Offices to alternative accommodation which had brought teams together as well as budget savings.

The report had gone to all the Council's partners for comment and had been supported, and Councillor Williams was pleased that Scrutiny Committee Members had given credit to Director and the Service Area for the support provided to residents, recognising there was often an overlap between Council and partnership working and where responsibilities for some aspects were.

Councillor John referred to Page 7 of Appendix A which detailed activity for the 2025/26 period and noted the numbers of people supported over that period which was increasing all the time.

The Leader said that the Social Care team were always innovative, referring to the use of Mata glasses, the popularity of inter-generational days in care homes and that often it was possible to arrange transfers from hospital to home within a day as soon patients were able to be discharged as part of the work of the Multi-Disciplinary Team in partnership with the Health Board. Thanks were extended to all staff for the work they do to support residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

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 content of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T the Director's Annual Report for 2025-26 (Appendix 1 to the report) be approved.

(3) T H A T the improvement priorities for Social Services as set out in the Director's Annual Report for 2025-26 be agreed.

<u>Reasons for decisions</u>

(1) To ensure that the Director's Annual Report was considered by Elected Members.

(2) To ensure that the Director's Annual Report for 2025-26 had the approval and agreement of Cabinet.

(3) To ensure that the priorities as set out by the Director of Social Services were approved by Cabinet.

C55 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26 (SCH) (SCRUTINY – LIVE WELL) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to provide an overview of the Corporate Safeguarding activities taking place across the Council.

Councillor Williams reminded Cabinet that corporate safeguarding was a whole-Council approach to keeping people safe, where every service, Directorate, Elected Member and staff member played a part in preventing harm and promoting wellbeing. The Place Directorate would be sending a representative to the meeting for 2026/27 and therefore would be included in next year's Annual Report. Training was available for both staff and Elected Members. Corporate Safeguarding Group were active in safeguarding activity across the Council.

The Leader said that an organisation called Victim Support provided training on how to be an ally or an active by-stander and assist someone experiencing difficulties which was worthwhile.

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 corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet would continue to receive Annual Reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the effectiveness of relevant Policies.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To ensure that Cabinet was aware of corporate arrangements for safeguarding

(2) To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of the key area of corporate working and be assured of effective safeguarding taking place.