

**ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

Present: Councillor Ms. B.E. Brooks (Chairman); Councillor Ms. S. Sivagnanam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, G. John, A.R. Robertson, L.O. Rowlands and S.T. Wiliam.

**546 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**

These were received from Councillors V.J. Bailey and M.J.G. Morgan.

**547 MINUTES –**

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**548 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations were received.

**549 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019 (REF) –**

The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport presented the reference from Cabinet which provided an update on the work that had been undertaken in relation to corporate arrangements for safeguarding across the Council.

The Welsh Audit Office undertook a follow-up of their 2014 review of Corporate Safeguarding arrangements in February 2019 and issued their final report in May 2019. The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that the Council had effective corporate arrangements in place and had addressed the findings and recommendations from their 2014 report and the subsequent recommendations made.

The 2019 review found that overall the Council had implemented most of the previous recommendations and proposals for improvement, however some areas needed further attention. They identified five areas for improvement to strengthen aspects of the Council's safeguarding arrangements. The areas for improvements were detailed within the Corporate Safeguarding Group's (CSG) work plan and incorporated not just these recommendations but other areas of business.

The CSG had structured its priorities and planning around 5 key areas including Corporate Leadership; Corporate Policy; Scrutiny and Assurance; Safer Recruitment and finally Training. Detailed below was an update on the requirements of each key objective area.

## **Corporate Leadership**

The attendance and participation the Corporate Safeguarding Group was closely monitored.

The Lead Member for Safeguarding was represented within the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

Membership and areas of responsibility for those within CSG was available on the Corporate Safeguarding Page.

Presentation of the CSG report and work plan at various Scrutiny Committees ensured a strengthening of the role of scrutiny in providing assurance regarding corporate safeguarding arrangements.

## **Corporate Policy**

The role of corporate safeguarding was known and understood throughout the Local Authority with a shared understanding that safeguarding was everyone's responsibility.

All employees, volunteers including school governors, Elected Members, contractors and partners were aware of their responsibility to comply with local and national Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

The profile of good safeguarding practice was a core part of the work of the Council.

## **Scrutiny and Assurance**

Safeguarding activity across the Local Authority was known and understood.

Risks associated with safeguarding were considered at a corporate and service level.

Local Authority Directorates, employees and volunteers were compliant with Safeguarding Policy and practice.

All Local Authority employees, volunteers and contractors were aware of the consequences of non-compliance with Safeguarding Policy.

The Council would produce further performance measures (for example in respect of safeguarding training compliance) to enhance the annual safeguarding report and aid transparency.

## **Safer Recruitment**

Assurance that all relevant Council appointments were compliant with Safer Recruitment Policy that covered all services that came into contact with children and adults at risk.

All Local Authority recruiting managers were aware of the consequences of non-compliance with Safer Recruitment Policy.

### **Training**

Expectations in relation to safeguarding training were known and understood across the Local Authority.

Employees, volunteers and agency staff were trained to fulfil a safeguarding function relevant to their role in the Local Authority.

Contracted services complied with safeguarding requirements outlined within all contracts.

Recording and monitoring volunteer of information, including any training records and Disclosure and Barring Service checks for volunteers.

Improved its approaches to safeguarding training by developing a training matrix relating to roles held.

The 2019/20 Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report would provide performance data in relation to the key areas identified above, this would be targeted information to provide assurances in relation to the key areas and actions.

Having considered the reference from Cabinet, it was

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the work undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.

### Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is aware of recent developments in corporate arrangements for safeguarding.

## **550 INITIAL REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020/21 AND REVISED BUDGET 2019/20 (DEH) –**

The Principal Accountant presented the report, the purpose of which was to allow the Committee to consider the Initial Revenue Budget Proposals for 2020/21 and to inform the Committee of the amended budget for 2019/20 for services which formed part of the Committee's remit.

The Council's budget was determined largely by the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement set by the Welsh Government (WG). The provisional RSG settlement was expected to be received from WG in December 2019, with the final settlement due to be received in February 2020.

The Council was required under statute to fix the level of Council Tax for 2020/21 by 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and in order to do so, would have to agree a balanced revenue budget by the same date. To be in a position to meet the statutory deadlines and the

requirements for consultation set out in the Council's Constitution, much of the work on quantifying the resource requirements of individual services needed to be carried out before the RSG settlement was notified to the Council.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the amended budget for 2019/20, together with the necessary adjustments to be made to the original budget.

The following table compares the amended budget with the projected outturn for 2019/20. Services were anticipating drawing down from reserves this year with the main areas outlined in the following table:

	2019/20 Original Budget £'000	2019/20 Amended Budget £'000	2019/20 Projected Outturn £'000	Variance (+)Favourable (-) Adverse £'000
<b>Directorate/Service</b>				
<b>Environment and Housing</b>				
Neighbourhood & Transport Services	25,442	25,538	27,058	-1,520
Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend	0	0	(1,520)	+1,520
Building Services	0	0	0	0
Regeneration	2,057	2,022	2,022	0
Development Management	967	963	963	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,466</b>	<b>28,523</b>	<b>28,523</b>	<b>0</b>

Neighbourhood Services and Transport – This service was currently projected to have an adverse variance of £1.520m against the 2019/20 budget. The savings target for 2019/20 was £932k. Plans for saving this amount were underway and being continually monitored however several of the proposed savings had a long lead in time therefore it was currently projected that £470k of the savings target would not be achieved in 2019/20. This savings shortfall was included within the £1.520m adverse variance. Currently, there was a proposed unplanned transfer of £1.520m from reserves to cover this potential shortfall, with efforts continuing to identify further savings. The reserve had been funded by the setting aside of £2m from a one off surplus in the Policy Budget.

Within the Waste Collection Service it was anticipated that there would be an adverse variance of around £650k. There was still pressure on employee and transport budgets due to downtime involved in travelling to Cardiff to dispose of waste. Cowbridge was currently being used as a temporary transfer station for elements of recycling material with the aim of reducing this downtime however additional resource was still being utilised. There was also pressure on the budget due to the high price currently being paid to treat the Council's co-mingled recycling. The price had increased steadily over the last couple of years since China banned elements of recycling such as plastic into the country. This had been compounded by a high percentage of dry recycling collected since May 2019 being rejected by the

new contractor. The rejected material had had to be sent for more expensive treatment or landfill which had cost an additional £150k from May to August 2019. Changes had been made to the collection process with the aim of ensuring the correct containers were placed on the kerbside for dry recycling therefore it was anticipated that considerably less recycling would be rejected going forward. The current service changes to enable a source separated recycling collection service were likely to require further resource in the initial period of service change however it was anticipated that this would reduce the costs currently being spent on treating recycling in the long term due to the reduced cost of treating the recycling. The rollout was being phased across the Vale from Autumn 2019 therefore the full benefit would not be achieved in 2019/20.

There was also currently a pressure of around £100k on the staffing budget at Barry Island. Due to the popularity of the resort additional resources had been utilised to maintain the expected cleanliness standards of the beach and promenade.

In addition there was a projected adverse variance against the street lighting energy budget. Although efforts had been made over previous years to turn a high percentage of street lighting to LED there had been significant increases to the cost of energy. The cost had increased by 13% in 2018/19 and now a further 9.5% in 2019/20. There was therefore a projected adverse variance of £150k against this budget.

Regeneration – This budget covered the Countryside, Economic Development and Tourism and Events functions. Although the forecast was again shown as a balanced budget at year-end, there remained concern over the long-established income targets for car parking charges and commercial opportunities within the Countryside Division, as these historic savings targets would be difficult to achieve this year if charges were not implemented. Efforts would once again be made to achieve a balanced budget at year-end, but the situation would be closely monitored.

Development Management – Fee income remained on track to achieve its target as a number of major applications had been received to date. Staff changes and short term vacancies whilst the recruitment process took place had resulted in an under spend on staff costs. In addition, the Division was also continuing to pursue the use of Planning Performance Agreements and some consultancy work along with other streams of income generation such as pre-planning application advice to help support the regulatory process, in line with 2019/20 savings targets.

As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20, a savings target of £1.076 was set for this Committee. Attached at Appendix 2 to the report was a statement detailing the projected progress against savings targets for 2019/20. It was currently projected that there would be a shortfall against the savings target of £470k.

Each savings target had been given a RAG status. Green indicated that it was anticipated that the target would be achieved in full within the year, Amber indicated that it was considered that the saving in the year would be within 20% of the target and red indicated that the saving to be achieved in year would be less than 80% of the target.

Neighbourhood and Transport Services – There was a savings target this year of £932k however, it was currently anticipated that £462k would be achieved leaving a shortfall of £470k to be identified. Work was continuing to identify schemes to close this gap. Any shortfall in 2019/20 would be offset by an amount set aside in the Neighbourhood Services reserve.

As part of these initial proposals, it had been necessary to revisit the cost pressures facing services in order to build up a complete and up to date picture of the financial position of the Council. An updated list was shown in Appendix 3 to the report. These were not shown in any order of priority. Since the production of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) the impact of additional pressures had been reviewed and were now included in the appendix. This had resulted in an increased level of cost pressures which would need to be assessed by the Budget Working Group as part of the final proposals.

There was still uncertainty regarding some of the assumptions made regarding pay costs. Pay awards for 2020/21 had not been agreed and had been included in those projections as a 2% increase.

The Council's employer pension contributions were reviewed every three years and were currently being reassessed to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020. The final budget proposals would be amended accordingly when further clarification was received from the actuaries.

Details of the proposed areas for savings for 2020/21 to 2021/22 were attached at Appendix 4 to the report. The savings did not include the cost of any potential redundancies. Further work was ongoing to identify future projects that would realise savings for the Council via the Reshaping Service process.

A summary of the base budget for this Committee for 2020/21 was attached at Appendix 5 to the report. This had been derived by adjusting the 2019/20 budget for items such as pay inflation and unavoidable growth, but did not include identified cost pressures or savings. These were shown as a note to the table and were further detailed in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively. Adjustments shown included the following:

- Asset Rents, International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 – Related to accounting items outside the control of services. They reflected charges to services for the use of capital assets and adjustments in respect of pensions to comply with accounting standards;
- Recharges / Transfers – Related to changes in inter-service and inter Directorate recharges;
- Pay Inflation – This figure related to pay awards for 2020/21.

Once the base budget for 2020/21 had been established, it must then be compared to the funding available to identify the extent of any shortfall.

Although the Council had not received its provisional settlement it had considered a number of scenarios as part of its MTFP which would now be updated in the context of the revised cost pressures submitted by service departments.

In Scenario 1 with a cash neutral or flat settlement, which would provide the same funding to the Council as in 2019/20 and a projected AEF of £152.07m and Council Tax reflecting a 4.9% increase and standing at £77.655m, total available funding would be £229.725m. When compared to a base budget of £230.148m, this would result in a funding shortfall for 2020/21 of £0.423m.

If all identified cost pressures were funded, this would increase the shortfall to £10.481m. If all proposed savings were achieved, the shortfall would be reduced to £8.968m.

If the Council Tax assumptions were further revised to take the Band D Council Tax in line with the Welsh Average, which reflected a 10.4% increase, the shortfall would be £4.896m.

<b>Scenario 1</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>Projected Budget Shortfall</b>	
<b>Cash Neutral Settlement from WG</b>	
Funding Available	<b>£000</b>
Provisional AEF	152,070
Council Tax (incl 4.9% Increase)	77,655
Projected Funding Available	229,725
Base Budget	231,148
Use of Reserves	(1,000)
Total Base Budget	230,148
<b>Projected Shortfall Against Base Budget</b>	<b>(423)</b>
Assume all Cost Pressures Funded	(10,058)
<b>Projected Shortfall with Cost Pressures Funded</b>	<b>(10,481)</b>
Assume all Savings Achieved (including Schools)	1,513
<b>Projected Shortfall</b>	<b>(8,968)</b>
Increase Council Tax to Welsh Average (increase to 10.4%)	4,072
<b>Projected Shortfall</b>	<b>(4,896)</b>

In Scenario 2 with a 1% reduction in Welsh Government funding settlement and a projected AEF of £150.549m and Council Tax reflecting a 4.9% increase and standing at £77.655m, total available funding would be £228.204m. When compared

to a base budget of £230.148m, this would result in a funding shortfall for 2020/21 of £1.944m.

If all identified cost pressures were funded, this would increase the shortfall to £12.002m. If all proposed savings were achieved, the shortfall would be reduced to £10.489m.

Reserves were a way of setting aside funds from budgets in order to provide security against future levels of expenditure and to manage the burden across financial years. Funds no longer required may be transferred to the Council Fund and then set aside for other purposes or used to reduce Council Tax.

The Council had always taken a prudent approach with regard specific reserves and used them to mitigate known risks (financial and service) and contingent items, e.g. Insurance Fund. Other reserves had been established to fund Council priorities, e.g. Neighbourhood Services and the Capital Programme. This was important as the Council had limited capacity to realise sufficient sums from the sale of assets for capital investment. Sums had also been set aside to assist in budget management, e.g. Early Retirement Fund.

The Council Fund Reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 was projected to stand at £15.636m. There was also a £1m approved use of this reserve in 2020/21. This contribution would be further considered by the Budget Working Group (BWG) when setting the 2020/21 budget, however, use of this reserve to balance the revenue budget would result in a higher level of savings being required in future years. The Section 151 Officer currently believed that the minimum balance on the Council Fund Reserve should be no less than £7m. This was considered sufficient to cover unforeseen expenditure whilst, in the short term, maintaining a working balance. Unforeseen expenditure could be substantial and several instances could occur in a year. Whilst there was no set requirement for the minimum level for the Council Fund Reserve, some commentators used 5% of the net budget as a guide. For the Vale this was around £11m. However, in view of the prudent approach the Council took with regard to specific reserves, £7m was considered a reasonable minimum.

The Council presently benefitted from a reasonable level of reserves, however, they were not inexhaustible and had taken years of careful financial management to develop to their current level. As part of the usual Budget process, an examination of the level of reserves was undertaken to ascertain their adequacy and strategy for use. A view to their level (i.e. whether the amount held in the fund was sufficient to requirements) and purpose (i.e. whether the need to hold the fund was still relevant) had been taken. The requirement for each specific reserve had also been considered in light of the Council's priorities and at this stage of the budget process no transfers between reserves were proposed.

Appendix 6 to the report set out the Committee's actual reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 and showed the estimated reserves balance for each year up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.

The Council was planning to use a considerable amount of its specific reserves over the coming years, however, as reserves were a non-recurring means of funding, they



could only be used as part of a specific financial strategy. The use of all reserves would be reviewed further, by the BWG, as part of the final budget setting process.

If the Council Tax assumptions were further revised to take the Band D Council Tax in line with the Welsh Average which reflected a 10.4% increase, the shortfall would be £6.417m.

<b>Scenario 2 Projected Budget Shortfall 1% Reduction in WG Settlement</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Funding Available	
Provisional AEF	150,549
Council Tax (4.9% Increase)	77,655
Projected Funding Available	228,204
Base Budget	231,148
Use of Reserves	(1,000)
Total Base Budget	230,148
<b>Projected Shortfall Against Base Budget</b>	<b>(1,944)</b>
Assume all Cost Pressures Funded	(10,058)
<b>Projected Shortfall with Cost Pressures Funded</b>	<b>(12,002)</b>
Assume all Savings Achieved (including Schools)	1,513
<b>Projected Shortfall</b>	<b>(10,489)</b>
Increase Council Tax to Welsh Average (increase to 10.4%)	4,072
<b>Projected Shortfall</b>	<b>(6,417)</b>

A 1% increase in Council Tax at the 2019/20 Council Tax base equated to £740k. The level of increase in Council Tax would need to be carefully considered in parallel with the other options available to the Council in order to reduce the funding gap and to consider the impact on the residents of the Vale. As the population in the Vale of Glamorgan had increased from the previous year there may also be additional funding from the change in the Council Tax base.

Further work would be undertaken by the BWG in order to achieve a balanced budget for the final budget proposals for 2020/21. This would include a review of the use of reserves, a review around an increase in Council Tax, a review of all cost pressures, possible changes to the approved saving targets, a review of the inflation assumptions and the current financial strategies.

The BWG would consider the results of the budget engagement process in determining priorities for future savings and service delivery and the possible increase in Council Tax.

The next stage was for the estimates to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees for consultation. Committees were asked to review the level of cost pressures with a view to suggesting ways in which these could be managed downwards and/or mitigated and to consider proposals for savings. Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee was the lead Scrutiny Committee and would consider both the Initial Revenue Budget Proposals and any recommendations that other Scrutiny Committees had made. The responses of Scrutiny Committee must be made no later than 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

The BWG would hold a series of meetings in November and December 2019 with the relevant Cabinet Members and officers to consider the budget proposals and they would submit their recommendations so that the Cabinet may make its final budget proposal. Before making its recommendation, the BWG would consider the comments made by Scrutiny, together with the results of consultation. The final proposals to Cabinet would include a review of the financial strategies required to achieve a balanced budget, which was sustainable in future years. Currently, the approved timetable required Cabinet to approve the final budget proposals by no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 and that Cabinet's final budget proposals would be considered by Council at a meeting to be held 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 to enable the Council Tax to be set by 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

The Principal Accountant advised that since the report had been published Welsh Government had outlined its draft budget settlement, which indicated that the Council's budget for 2020/21 would potentially see an increase of 4.9%. This equated to an extra £7.5m on top of the Council's budget for 2019/20. The Principal Accountant stated that the Council was still looking at all information and detail from Welsh Government as some grant money may have been curtailed. Therefore, the amount allocated for 2020/21 was different to the two model scenarios set out in the report. The Chairman stated, that the 4.9% was good news, and that further work was underway on the budgets but as it was early stages the Council would not have a complete picture.

A Committee Member asked a series of questions. The first was in relation to waste collection and an increase in Council Tax due to the increase in the number houses. In reply, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport advised that although the Council would receive an increase in Council Tax this did not necessarily mean a direct increase to the amount allocated for the collection of household waste. This was why there had been a bid for extra funding.

The Members second query was in relation to savings, and the Member asked for examples of projects that had a 'long lead in time'. In response, officers advised that examples would be Third-Party Spending on external contracts, the Toilet Strategy and the revised Parking Policy.

The third query was in relation to how successful the Reshaping Services programme had been. In reply, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport

stated within her service area there had been a number of successful projects, such as the restructure of Visible Services, how the Council undertook grass cutting, transfer of bowling greens and the review of procurement. A lot of hard work had been undertaken and it was recognised that there was still a lot more to do, particularly in relation to Community Asset Transfers.

A Committee Member queried the additional £100k for Barry Island, and he asked how much of a percentage increase did this represent. In reply, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the extra money was needed due to the increased popularity of the resort, which had meant that there was extra litter picking and cleaning to undertake. The increase in popularity had been seen over the past 3 to 4 years, and the extra £100k represented a 25% increase on last year's budget. The Council would also look at how it could raise income through concessions. In relation to parking at Barry Island, a Committee Member stated that a multi-storey car park was needed. The Head of Regeneration and Planning stated that it should not be forgotten that Barry Island had its own train station, which was the busiest in Barry. The use of cars was not the future, so the Council had to look at alternatives.

The Chairman in coming back to the additional money from Welsh Government for 2020/21 stated that cost pressures would still remain, as the Directorate had been under financial pressure for some years. She suggested that this should be raised with Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee. This was agreed by the Committee.

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet, that despite the indicative budget increase of 4.9% for 2020/21 from Welsh Government, that it be noted that the cost pressures for Environment and Housing will still remain and need to be fully considered.

Reason for recommendation

To highlight the significant cost pressures within Environment and Housing.

**551 INITIAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROPOSALS 2020/21 TO 2024/25 AND CAPITAL MONITORING 2019/20 (DEH) –**

The Principal Account presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for 2019/20 and to submit for consultation the Initial Capital Programme Proposals for 2020/21.

Appendix 1 to the report detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

At the time that the report had been produced, the Provisional General Capital Funding for 2020/21 had not yet been announced by Welsh Government (WG). At the meeting, the Principal Accountant stated that on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019, WG had provided its draft budget settlement and stated that an amount of £6.796m would be

allocated to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for Capital projects. This was around £500k more than previous projections.

Appendix 2 to the report set out the Initial Proposals for the Capital Programme between 2020/21 and 2024/25 relating to this Committee.

New capital bids were invited for return by 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 and the number of bids received were 41 (3 from Learning and Skills, 21 from Neighbourhood and Transport Services, 4 from Managing Director and Resources, 12 from Regeneration and Planning and 1 from Social Services). Departments were requested to rank and assess their own bids in order of importance before submission and bids from each Department were forwarded to the Insight Board for evaluation.

The value of capital bids received for the Council as a whole totalled £6.973m in 2020/21 and £20.473m over the five year period. While the evaluation process had been carried out this year for all capital bids in the normal manner, the settlement for 2020/21 had not been confirmed. It was therefore proposed that at this point, due to the uncertainty in the level of funding that would be provided, no schemes would be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme and further assessment would be carried out by the Budget Working Group once the level of funding was known and consultation had taken place.

A list of all the capital bids received relating to this Committee was shown in Appendix 3 to the report and the Principal Accountant stated that these were ranked in order of priority sub categorised between the two Service areas. The largest bid related to Carriageway resurfacing/Surface treatments, for which a bid of £12.250m had been made for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25. This represented over £2m per year. The Principal Accountant advised that Welsh Government had indicated it would no longer allocate funding for this from 2020/21, so next year would be the last year that funding would be provided.

An allocation for Asset Renewal had currently been included in Appendix 2 over the five year period of the programme. Asset Renewal budgets for each Directorate would be reviewed and schemes would be identified prior to the approval of the Final Capital Proposals for 2020/21 to ensure that funding was allocated to priority schemes.

There had been a number of changes approved by Cabinet since the final budget proposals 2019/20 to 2023/24 were approved in February 2019. These changes including capital sums carried forward had been included in Appendix 2.

The next stage was for the estimates to be submitted to Scrutiny Committees for consultation. Each Scrutiny Committee would be asked to first consider the Initial Capital Programme proposals as shown in Appendix 2 and to make any recommendations for changes and to consider the capital bids shown in Appendix 3. If changes were requested or particular bids were supported, then the reasons needed to be recorded in order to assist the Cabinet and the Budget Working Group in drawing up the final proposals. Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee was the lead Scrutiny Committee and would consider both the Initial Capital Budget Proposals and any recommendations that other Scrutiny Committees

made. The responses of Scrutiny Committees must be made no later than 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

Managers would be asked to revisit the recommended schemes contained in the final proposals prior to presentation to Cabinet and to confirm final costs and spend profiles.

Currently, the approved timetable required Cabinet to approve the final budget proposals by no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 and that Cabinet's final Capital Programme proposals would be considered by Council at a meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 to enable the Council Tax to be set by 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

A Committee Member commented that there was no information in relation to the WelTAG Stage 2 transport studies for Dinas Powys. In reply, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that funding for this had been set aside as a reserve and not included in the Capital programme.

In reply to a query regarding the new Council Camera Car to monitor parking infringements, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that new funding of £70k had been allocated to purchase a vehicle, which would be operated by the Enforcement Team. The Committee noted that a report on the role and structure of the Enforcement Team would be provided over the forthcoming months and Members would be given opportunity to see the car in person.

A Committee Member referred to money allocated for bus shelters and queried whether Colcot Road was a 'primary route'. The Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that the Council had been successful in a bid to Welsh Government for improvements along the A48, and money had also been set aside for Port Road. She stated that she would look at the shelter on Colcot Road.

With regard to the reduction in funding for Carriageway resurfacing/Surface treatments, the Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated an amount of £2.5m had been allocated this year. After 2020/21, Welsh Government would no longer be providing funding, so this could mean a reduction of £1m. It had been recognised that £2.5m was required to maintain roads at the current standards. The Committee therefore agreed that this needed to be emphasised with Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet, for emphasis to be given to bid NST1 - Carriageway resurfacing/Surface treatments, which should be successful in order to maintain roads to an acceptable standard and because resurfacing is recognised as a major challenge as standards could deteriorate very quickly.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the impact of a reduction in Welsh Government funding for Carriageway resurfacing/Surface treatments and the importance to maintain road surface standards.

552 QUARTER 2 2019 – 20 PERFORMANCE REPORT: AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE AND PROSPEROUS VALE (MD) –

The Head of Regeneration and Planning presented the report which provided Quarter 2 performance results for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 for the Corporate Plan Wellbeing Outcome 2 – An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale.

An overall Green RAG status had been attributed to Well-being Outcome 2, 'An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale', to reflect the good progress made towards achieving improved outcomes for residents and our customers during the quarter.

In relation to the 82 Service Plan actions aligned to this Well-being Outcome for 2019/20, a status was applicable for 74 actions. 90% (74/82) had been attributed a Green performance status reflecting the progress made during the quarter, 3% (2/82) were attributed and Amber status and 7% (6/82) actions were attributed a Red status.

In relation to Service Plan actions, there was a need to progress a number of actions which had slipped this quarter. These related to: work with the Department of Work and Pensions to provide a range of work opportunities in the Council for volunteers in receipt of state benefits (HR/A009); completion of the new skate park at Cogan (NS/A053); implementation of the revised Parking Policy (NS/A057); review of the post 16 School / College transport policy (NS/A060) and fare paying school transport buses (NS/A061); and implementation of the Refit (energy efficiency improvement) programme across the Council (FIT/A006).

Of the 42 performance indicators aligned to this Well-being Outcome, data was reported for 6 PIs of which a performance status was applicable for all. 67% (4/6) of measures were attributed a Green performance status, 33% (2/6) a Red status contributing to an overall Amber status for performance measures aligned to this Well-being Outcome at Q2.

In relation to performance measures, there was a need to improve: the percentage of reported fly tipping incidents which lead to enforcement activity (CPM/016) which remained low due to the difficulties in relation to a lack of evidence which was needed for successful prosecution; and the percentage of Council street lights that had been converted to LED (CPM/154). This had remained static since Quarter 1, as funding to replace another 3717 lanterns to LED on Strategic Routes was awaited. Good progress had been made since Quarter 1 going from an overall Red RAG status in Quarter 1 to an overall Amber status for performance indicators in Quarter 2.

A detailed report outlining the progress made this Quarter towards achieving Well-being Outcome 2 was provided at Appendix A to the report.

Subsequently, it was

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving key outcomes in line with the Council's Year 4 priorities for Corporate Plan Wellbeing Outcome 2 – The Vale of Glamorgan has a strong and sustainable economy and the local environment is safeguarded for present and future generations, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the remedial actions taken to address areas of underperformance and tackle the key challenges identified, be noted.

**Reasons for recommendations**

- (1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrates progress being made towards achieving its Corporate Plan Wellbeing Outcomes aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.
- (2) To ensure the Council is effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to secure continuous improvement as outlined in the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and reflecting the requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximises its contribution to achieving the Wellbeing Goals for Wales.