

No.

HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 12th January, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor A. M. Collins (Chair), Councillor. J. Aviet (Vice), Councillors J.C. Bird, B.E. Brooks, C.A. Cave, S.M. Hanks, R. Nugent-Finn, A.C. Parker, S.D. Perkes and L.O. Rowlands.

Also present: Councillor E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services), C. Ireland (Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale Representative), G. Doyle, W. Hennessy and V. John (Representatives from Tenant Working Group / Panel).

730 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chairman read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

731 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from H Smith (Tenant Working Group / Panel Representative)

732 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

733 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor J. Aviet declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 – Draft Tenant and Leaseholder Participation Strategy 2021-2026. The nature of her interest was that she was a Vale of Glamorgan Council tenant. This was a personal interest only and not prejudicial as per paragraph 18.3.3(b)(ii)(A) of the Constitution. Therefore, Councillor Aviet remained in the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor C.A. Cave declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 - Draft Tenant and Leaseholder Participation Strategy 2021-2026. The nature of her interest was that she was a leaseholder. This was a personal interest only and not prejudicial as

No.

per paragraph 18.3.3(b)(ii)(A) of the Constitution. Therefore, Councillor Cave remained in the meeting during consideration of this item.

734 WALES ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING UNIT –

The presentation was set out by the Client Liaison Officer, Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit (WIMLU).

The Client Liaison Officer set out the background and the structure of the unit, which included both investigators (who looked at compiling the necessary evidence in order to prosecute a loan shark) and client liaison officers (who focussed on victim support, including health problems, debt problems and the court system), funded by a levy on high cost, but legal, credit providers such as doorstep lenders or payday loan providers. The Unit was based within Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) and covered all 22 Local Authorities in Wales. The Unit's focus was to tackle people involved in illegal money lending activities, commonly known as 'loan sharks'.

A 'loan shark' was defined as someone lending money without the necessary authorisation to do so under law. Therefore, they operated outside the statutory legal framework, with the absence of credit agreements, receipts and without the need to adhere to the rules and regulations if a borrower defaulted on a loan. This resulted in loan sharks employing threats and even assault, criminal damage, kidnap and blackmail in order to enforce loans, with massive interest rates and default charges also being employed, i.e. 'double bubble' where a person could borrow £50 but had to pay back £100.

Such persons (who included both male and female individuals) preyed on vulnerable persons with known financial problems within the local community, often via friends, family and wider community links and networks. A significant number of their victims had a recognised mental or physical disability, literacy problems or were culturally isolated.

The Client Liaison Officer cited a case study as well as examples of investigation and enforcement by WIMLU and partners within the SRS area. Of particular note was the use of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and the potential for the recovery of substantial amounts of money and assets from loan sharks that could be paid back to victims by way of compensation and to relevant government departments and WIMLU which got a small amount to use on awareness raising activities. Such seizures of funds could be a far greater deterrent and disruptor of loan sharking activities than prison sentences alone.

In terms of where WIMLU got their cases from, they were an intelligence led unit and so they received their information from various sources such as the loan shark victims themselves, but more often from support workers, tenancy support staff and Council Tax arrears workers in Councils, which WIMLU had close relationships with, as well as working closely with the police and other enforcement agencies. WIMLU also provided a 24-hour confidential helpline to

No.

report suspected loan shark activity and provided free training to interested parties on this topic.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- On Councillor Perkes' query on the size and prevalence of illegal money lending within Wales, the most up to date statistics on this would be shared with the Committee as soon as possible.
- Councillor Aviet noted the prevalence of females involved with illegal money lending, to which the Client Liaison Officer agreed and stated that this could be accompanied by a male partner or associate who acted as the 'muscle' for such activities.
- On Councillor Aviet's query on the status of traditional, 'doorstep' lenders such as Provident, it was explained that they and other high cost, payday type lenders operated within the legal framework and WIMLU did encourage people to access lower cost options such as Credit Unions, but payday style lenders were still preferable to loan sharks, as people could still be assisted in handling repayments.
- On Councillor Nugent-Finn's query on how to encourage victims to come forward, it was explained that this was a challenge due to some victims feeling a sense of fear and shame around this type of debt, but WIMLU encouraged victims to come forward and talk to their Client Liaison Officers in order to get immediate support around debts, to delay evictions, to provide police involvement and protection and provide emergency accommodation if required.
- On the Tenant Representative's query on the number of loan sharks operating within the Vale, there were currently four investigations underway for the area covered by SRS (Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan), but there was probably a much higher number of loan sharks operating within the Vale and beyond.
- Another Tenant Representative commented on the scale of illegal money lending and was glad that the use of POCA was 'hitting where it hurts' for loan sharks.
- The Head of Housing and Building Services wished to add that the Council's Neighbourhood Housing Teams and Income Advice Service would act as 'allies' to WIMLU by asking the right questions, making sure that the appropriate advice was given and being perhaps a 'friendly ear' for victims of loan sharking to open up to and then signpost or refer to WIMLU, as well as taking up the free training offered by the unit. This was particularly pertinent now due to increased costs and debts arising from the pandemic.
- On the growing issues of fuel poverty, etc. and how WIMLU would be able to deal with the potential growth in illegal money lending, it was stated that WIMLU and its equivalents throughout the UK were looking at the challenges involved going forward such as researching the growing use of online platforms by loan sharks.
- Following Councillor Perkes' comments on Loan Sharks targeting online bank accounts, it was clear that loan sharks were becoming more 'tech

No.

savvy' and there were instances where victims were handing over their online details to them, under duress.

- The Citizens Advice representative added that it was challenging to get their clients to open up on such forms of debt, particularly when undertaking a standard financial statement as payments to loan sharks were usually by cash and so could not be easily or clearly identified as such. It was therefore important to build up a level of trust and rapport with clients in order for them to be comfortable in telling Citizens Advice workers about such debts and she would be approaching WIMLU about their training.
- Councillor Aviet asked on the procedure for identifying a loan shark; it was explained that WIMLU would initially receive a call from a victim or support worker about loan sharking activities, they would then assess the level of risk and approach the police, if required, around the necessary safeguarding. Information would then be gathered by the Unit's investigators in order to get permission for surveillance and / or a search warrant via the Magistrates' Courts in conjunction with the Police.
- A poster and contact details regarding WIMLU would be shared with Members.

Committee, having considered the presentation and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the presentation on the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

735 DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2021 – 2026 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 6th December, 2021 was presented by the Head of Housing and Building Services, who outlined the importance of this Local Housing Strategy (LHS) in underpinning the Council's strategic housing enabling role not just for Council housing, but for the effective functioning of the housing market as a whole. The Strategy also looked at private housing, general housing solutions and supply and demand for housing. The Strategy underpinned other key, strategic documents like the Local Development Plan (LDP) and delivered the direction in terms of things like supplementary planning guidance and also supported the Council's Corporate Plan, as well as linking into Future Generations and the importance of housing and associated areas such as health and financial inclusion. The development and publication of the LHS was a requirement under Section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The 'retrospective' outlook of the Strategy was due to it being a five-year strategy that had been subject to extensive consultation exercises with various contributors (such as partner organisations, representatives from the public, private and third sectors, Elected Members and Council departments) in 2020 where the previous Strategy was reviewed and discussions on what actions, objectives and outcomes

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were needed for the new Strategy going forward. This built on the previous Strategy, and the new one faced similar challenges i.e. access to affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness as well as facing newer challenges such as Brexit, ongoing austerity and welfare reform and now of course COVID-19.

The Council would be delivering these strategic aims with their partners in Health, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), private sector landlords and the statutory and Third Sectors.

The overall, long term, vision for the new Strategy to deliver housing in the Vale for the next 5 years was that 'All residents in the Vale of Glamorgan had access to good quality, suitable housing and could live happily and independently in vibrant, sustainable communities'. In terms of the aims of the Strategy, these were as follows:

- Aim 1: More Homes, More Choice i.e., figures in the report outlined the increase in house building already since the last Strategy started (rising to 917 houses in 2019-20) as well as addressing the challenges of housing rising numbers of older residents and single persons through social and private housing options (with the aim to expand options in the latter category to offset the limits of providing Council owned properties) and in light of rising house prices and rents.
- Aim 2: Improved homes and communities, such as returning empty homes into use, working with RSLs in terms of the Council's Community Investment Strategy and Tenant Engagement Strategy and going beyond a 'bricks and mortar' approach.
- Aim 3: Better housing advice and support in order to prevent homelessness and enable access to the right kind of housing for residents (such as for larger families and to support people to live independently for as long as possible), whilst addressing the related challenges around COVID-19 and the availability of housing.
- Aim 4: Equality of access to housing and housing services such as the Council's ongoing commitment to help house Syrian and Afghan refugees as part of the UK government's resettlement program through private housing solutions and the undertaking of a tenant profile survey in order to understand who the Council's tenants were and to respond to their diverse needs as well as eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation by reviewing key policies and procedures in line with the with current legislation.

The Head of Housing and Building Services added that in terms of monitoring this Strategy, the related Action Plan would be brought to the Committee on an annual basis for an update and in terms of the actual day-to-day operational oversight of the Action Plan that had traditionally been undertaken by the Overarching Housing Forum (OHF) which included all of the key partners, on a quarterly basis.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

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- On Councillor Perkes' query regarding the level of demand for people to move from 1 or 2 bedroom Council properties to larger dwellings, there was some demand for, and more gradual movement to, 'upsizing' to larger properties but not as high as that for 1–2-bedroom properties. The latter properties were still the main focus of demand, with a significant number of the single people that the Council had statutory duties for being vulnerable people, with challenging issues and the need to look at supporting them with sustainable housing as well as addressing single bedroom demand, such as the possible 'de-designation' of existing single bed properties.
- Regarding Councillor Nugent-Finn's query on whether Welsh Government (WG) and LDP needs were aligned in terms of what was expected to be built and in terms of the actual demands, it was explained that the needs identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment (890 units of affordable housing per annum over the 5-year period 2021-26) could not be met solely via the LDP on a year-by-year basis. What the Strategy and the Local Housing Market Assessment did, however, was to ensure that the accommodation that was built positively influenced or regulated the housing market, for example, developers were required to provide a proportion of affordable social rented housing or affordable housing on their schemes, which had proved successful. Therefore, there was an alignment with WG and the LDP housing needs, but with the caveat that the figures that were identified in terms of the backlog need in the housing market assessment could never be fully delivered due to the natural limits on land supply.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee on the Draft Local Housing Strategy 2021 – 2026 be considered by Cabinet prior to the final Strategy being referred to Full Council for approval.

Reason for recommendation

To allow Cabinet to make a fully informed decision on the final Strategy before referring the same to Full Council.

736 DRAFT TENANT AND LEASEHOLDER PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2021-2026 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 20th December, 2021 was presented by the Senior Neighbourhood Manager, Housing Services in order to inform the Committee on the new strategy, which set out the Council's Vision for increasing Tenant and Leaseholder Participation.

One notable change for the Strategy was the inclusion of leaseholders, following internal staff conversations, consultation and the need that was recognised to ensure that both tenants and leaseholders voices and views should be heard.

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Within the Strategy there were three key themes and one overriding cross cutting theme:

- To increase involvement by Council Tenants and Leaseholders by including them in developing Tenant and Leaseholder centred services.
- To invest in staff and financial resources to enable the development of Tenant and Leaseholder driven services and participation.
- To support Tenants and Leaseholders in order to help them to influence and shape decisions and services.
- The final, overarching theme was ensuring that Tenants and Leaseholders felt their opinions were valued, listened to, and acted upon.

In order to deliver these key themes, Housing Services had developed a comprehensive action plan which set out how what, when and who would be taking these actions forward. As part of this, there was a Council internal staff group and tenant led working group involved with monitoring the Strategy and Action Plan, with this Committee providing additional scrutiny via six monthly reports on the progress of the strategy and the related Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Senior Neighbourhood Manager explained that the new Strategy built on the previous ones (mandated by WG since 2007) and learning the lessons from these. The Strategy had been developed by a cross departmental working group, in consultation with the Tenant Working Groups, as well as via the tenant profiling exercise, in order to look at the opinions of tenants not involved in such tenant groups nor other forms of participation. As part of the Strategy an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, as well as threats was made, as well as taking on board WG guidance and best practice on tenant and leaseholder participation, such as including greater digital participation. Also, the Strategy would be acting upon the feedback from the STAR Tenant Satisfaction Survey where there had been a decrease in tenant satisfaction on the Council listening / acting on tenant views and keeping tenants informed, in order to reverse this decline.

The overall vision for the new Tenant and Leaseholder Strategy was to create a culture where the Council developed and maximised the opportunities for Tenants and Leaseholders to contribute towards creating Tenants and Leaseholders centred services.

In addition, work had already started as part of the Strategy's Action Plan, such as launching a new service quality assessors' group, which would scrutinise the relevant services, including gas services and anti-social behaviour.

Finally, an Equality Impact Assessment had been completed as part of the development of this Strategy, it being established, as part of the preparation work of the assessment, that 74% of the tenants engaged in the tenant participation structures were aged 65 and above, 89% were white, and 92% heterosexual. This would provide a 'baseline' for tenant participation for reporting and how to increase accessibility to all groups.

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Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Aviet asked if tenants and leaseholders needed to be part of a residents' board or similar in order to engage with this Strategy or could they join the relevant working groups solely based on being a tenant / leaseholder and asked how the Council attracted tenants and leaseholders to engage with the strategy. The Senior Neighbourhood Manager explained that one of the actions that had been identified in this new Strategy was the need to look at the current engagement structures. Typically, people first became a member of a tenant and residents' group, and then they got involved in other groups. However, as part of this new Strategy, the means of engagement would be expanded and reviewed. Also, currently, there were no leaseholder engagement groups in existence and therefore there was a need to launch such groups going forward as well as identifying a number of different ways in which to engage with tenants and residents more broadly and effectively. One example of widening tenant participation was on the St Luke's and St Paul's estates in Penarth, where the Council had been involved in a community development project, called 'Clean State' and engaging with tenants in order to make the local environment cleaner, greener, healthier and the local community more interconnected. This was an example of a more informal style of engagement with tenants and taking their views on board, which would be used more frequently going forward in conjunction with the use of digital surveys with tenants and residents (such as via the tenant pulse surveys where each Local Authority was able to send information out to their tenants and residents in order to get feedback via TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) Cymru which had already proved successful).

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Scrutiny Committee, as part of the consultation process for the Strategy and the Equality Impact Assessment, be considered by Cabinet prior to the final Strategy being agreed.

Reason for recommendation

To allow Cabinet to make a fully informed decision on the final Strategy, following further consultation.

737 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2021 (DEH) –

The purpose of the report, as outlined by the Interim Head of Finance / S151 Officer, was to advise Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1st April to 30th November, 2021.

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In terms of the revenue budget, it was projected that services within the Committee's remit would outturn within budget at year end.

Regarding the savings target for the period for this Committee, set at £6k, this had been achieved.

There had also been changes to the Capital Programme, with slippage requests relating to the Housing Improvement Program which, as detailed in the report, totalled £11.6m. This was partially due to problems with the supply chain and the need to revisit projects due to increased project and material costs. The relevant schemes would be delivered, however, some of these would start this financial year and would need to continue and be concluded within the next financial year. Due to this, there will no longer be a requirement to raise unsupported loans to fund capital expenditure this financial year and the level of revenue contributions to capital would reduce by approximately £4m. Therefore, this would result in an underspend on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget which in turn would result in the balance of the HRA reserve increasing at year end to a higher position than had been planned. This would be addressed in the next production of the Housing Business Plan, which would go to Cabinet in February.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Hanks raised the ongoing issue around CCTV and the future monitoring of CCTV output, enquiring on the status of the negotiations with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on this topic. The Head of Housing and Building Services responded by stating that due to the need to replace the current aging stock of CCTV used by the Vale and the eventual ending of the contract with Bridgend Council to monitor this, the Council recognised that it needed to renew the CCTV stock and to review its monitoring arrangements. It should also be noted that it was only the Council that currently supported the CCTV service in terms of revenue (with no support from partners or other agencies) and this had stimulated a discussion with the PCC, and those discussions had resulted in the establishment of an all-South Wales Strategic CCTV Group together with a number of operational groups. Furthermore, there was support in principle from the PCC to give revenue support for an upgraded CCTV service. As a result of that, a commitment was made by the Council to provide capital funding originally worth £350k, but during the period of the pandemic the Council had also procured mobile CCTV cameras to assist in dealing with issues around anti-social behaviour that had arisen in certain areas of the Vale. A decision from the PCC was imminent, and the Head of Housing and Building Services was awaiting clarity on when the business case would be going to the PCC executive board. He added that the Council was preparing, due to time limited capital grants being available from WG, in terms of the purchase of hardware including the cameras and the capital infrastructure for CCTV, as well as having discussions with Cardiff Council concerning their CCTV monitoring 'hub'. This was due to the PCC indicating that they would support revenue funding if there was a regional approach adopted. As a result, the Council was having informal

No.

discussions with Cardiff Council around contracts and service level agreements and continued to press the PCC for a decision on revenue and support. In the interim, the Vale continued to discuss with Bridgend Council about a possible extension of the existing CCTV monitoring contract.

- On the follow up suggestion from the Councillor on an 'in house', Vale only alternative for CCTV monitoring which would ensure priority and focus on Vale needs as opposed to a more regional approach, this suggestion had been previously considered by the Vale but it would entail potentially large revenue cost implications. There were substantial revenue savings in collaborating with other councils with CCTV and the direction of travel in Wales was for a regional approach to CCTV monitoring, although this could involve having a CCTV viewing station based at Barry police station.
- The Chair asked about the delay in the various schemes and projects alluded to earlier, which was explained as due to staff shortages through COVID-19 (therefore Housing and Building Services not having the staff available to draw up works contracts, etc.), as well as contractors being unable to start works due to rising costs around materials and the need to re-tender as a result. However, some of these works were now due to start but would have to be completed in the next financial year, therefore requiring the capital program to 'slip' accordingly.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

738 UPDATE ON THE DAARC SERVICE (DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CO-ORDINATOR) (DEH) –

The purpose of the report, as presented by the Community Safety Policy Manager, was to note the updates and progress on the DAARC service during the first two quarters of the current financial year (April 2021- September 2021).

By way of background, since its launch in 2018, the DAARC Service worked in partnership with South Wales Police in order to receive all standard and medium, consenting, Public Protection Notifications (PPNs) that were issued by the police every time they visited a domestic abuse incident. DAARC worked in partnership with other departments within the Local Authority, South Wales Police, Probation and third sector agencies, in order to gather information and build a picture of victims and their families to create a tailor-made support pathway which would also be victim led and informed. DAARC had been extremely good in providing referrals and support for standard and medium PPNs, with a higher level of focus and attention now given to these categories, which had not been seen before.

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The Community Safety Policy Manager referred to the number of referrals in the first two quarters of 2021/22, which had totalled 343 PPNs, compared to 838 PPNs for the same period in 2020/21. This was a reflection of a change resulting from the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan South Wales Police merger and subsequently DAARC receiving referrals from a new Risk Assessment Team which took the decision to not share a PPN unless the victim's consent was provided, due to concerns around potential breaches of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This issue was currently being looked at by the Community Safety Partnership in order to see if it could be resolved and 'unblocked'. The numerous issues around gaining consent from victims was one that was being looked at across the police service given the difficulties in obtaining reliable consent at the point of crisis. The change remained a cause for concern given the risk that enhanced safeguarding and additional support might not be offered to some victims of domestic abuse.

Also, of note from the report:

- In terms of statistics, 34 % of referrals were repeat cases which was a slight reduction compared with the 38% rate across the same time in the previous year. During the same period, 78% of cases were perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner and 7% were perpetrated by a son or stepson, comparable to 2020/21. However, the gradual rise in son or stepson violence was being monitored in order to address this issue and tailor victim needs accordingly.
- Cross-partner and departmental meetings and contacts including Housing and Supporting People Teams had been fully utilised during the pandemic to ensure fast acting support to victims of domestic abuse in light of lockdowns and restrictions. Also, an information sheet was now being created monthly and shared with housing colleagues regarding cases involving housing tenants (18% of domestic abuse victims were Vale of Glamorgan Council tenants across the reporting quarters).
- The Community Safety Team had been working with the Violence Prevention Unit on tackling an increase in violence in school settings that was thought to be linked to increases in exposure to violence in the home during the lockdown periods. Currently this involved very small numbers but would still be investigated and monitored in the meantime.
- An additional task and finish group was set up with safeguarding and Children's Services colleagues to look at the provision for children who were either victims directly of domestic abuse or were involved in families where such abuse was present and to look at patterns of repeat behaviour.
- A review of data collection, to include monitoring of the impact of domestic abuse on people with protected characteristics.
- Atal Y Fro had successfully tendered for the re commissioning of the Violence Against Women Domestic and Sexual Violence specialist service for three years, and additional funding for more Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) had been provided, including one such advocate for children.
- Finally, 43 applications were made to Clare's Law around safeguarding in this area.

No.

Following the Officer's presentation, the subsequent questions and comments were raised by the Committee:

- Councillor Perkes raised a query on the reports produced for DAARC during lockdown and the COVID-19 restrictions, concerning children in homes where domestic abuse was occurring and how this information was shared with the relevant schools and safeguarding officers in order to follow up on this. In response, it was explained that the Schools in Lockdown report was a South Wales Police Vale Violence Prevention unit report and initiative, which DAARC had obtained more 'drilled down' figures for which had been shared with the safeguarding education leads. This would also help with the monitoring of violence impacting children in a domestic or school setting.
- On the Councillor's other query about when the report from the task and finish group on domestic abuse and children's safeguarding would be available, this would be drafted in the near future and would cover making suitable changes to the data sets recording these incidents, what services were available and how departments identified domestic abuse as an issue. Also, funding for the recruitment of a Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (CHIDVA) had been awarded and Atal Y Fro would be taking this forward. It was explained that the task and finish group would then cease in its current form and the focus would be on monitoring the impact of the CHIDVA role. A report could then be drafted by the group and shared with the Committee.
- Councillor Aviet asked what agencies were notified by DAARC once domestic abuse was identified. This was done on a case by cases basis, following a tailored approach. The basis for sharing with or without the consent of the individual was whether or not it was felt that there was a child at risk, in which case the PPN was shared with Children and Education Services. Otherwise, in terms of who the referral went to, that would be something decided between the victim and the DAARC co-ordinator, based on the individual's needs or issues, such as substance misuse, financial and mental health services.
- On Councillor Hanks' query on Clare's Law applications and on how long it took to turnaround the information in order for it to come back, it was pointed out that this would normally come back quickly but the Community Safety Policy Manager would get further clarity and details on this.
- The Chair queried the funding for the CHIDVA and on how many such roles DAARC was hoping to get in the next few years. It was explained that ideally more CHIDVAs would be recruited in order to meet the clear need in this area but currently funding from the PCC allowed for one such role only; however, this would help 'pilot' the role and identify the clear need for more such advocates within this area.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the performance of the DAARC service for the period be noted.

No.

(2) T H A T the work undertaken to improve services for those affected by domestic abuse in the Vale be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1-2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

739 3RD QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2021/22
AND UPDATED COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
2021/22 (MD) -

The purpose of the report, as set out by the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, was to provide progress on Scrutiny recommendations and for Committee to consider the updated Forward Work Programme together with any slippage for 2021/22.

The report advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2021/22 for the Committee's consideration with the 3rd Quarter Recommendation Tracking October to December 2021 attached at Appendix A, 1st Quarter Recommendation Tracking April to June 2021 attached at Appendix B, 2019-20 Uncompleted Recommendation Tracking attached at Appendix C and the Updated Committee Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2021/22 attached at Appendix D to the report.

Regarding Appendix C, the Head of Housing and Building Services updated the Committee on the recommendations concerning the report identifying an appropriate housing solution for the Traveller community. He explained that these were still ongoing, with the Council having recently started the process around a new Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment which would provide an evidence base for the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers identified in the Vale of Glamorgan in order to help fulfil the statutory requirement for the Council in providing for such an identified need or needs. In terms of the previous cabinet report on this matter, from March 2021, the recommendations concerning this were still ongoing with work continuing with colleagues in both Planning and Housing Departments.

Committee, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A to C to the report be agreed.

(2) T H A T the updated Committee Forward Work Programme Schedule attached at Appendix D be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

No.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For consideration and information.