

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014

FINANCES

The Medium Term Financial Plan paints a difficult period for the County Council. There are significant challenges ahead to maintain the financial stability of the Authority and at the same time maintain services. The 'Reshaping Services' document proposes a radical change in the way the Vale delivers services.

EDUCATION

St. Cyres School has made significant progress this year albeit from a low base. The ESTYN Inspection was a catalyst as was the intervention of the Lifelong Learning Panel. The questions for the School are how did they achieve this turnaround after declining results since 2010, what are the risks facing the school and how will the momentum be maintained? The new building opens after half term.

CROSS COMMON BRIDGE

Negotiations are continuing with the land owner. It is frustrating that it is taking such a time. If the alternative plan to rebuilding the bridge is progressed it will save significant disruption. Meanwhile the stability of the bridge is being monitored.

STAFF

The Managing Director of the Vale is retiring.

LIBRARY

The Cabinet seems determined to replace professional Library Staff with volunteers. We continue to tackle the Council about this plan.

CARDIFF ROAD

There has been another accident at the junction of Station Road and Cardiff Road. This matter has been raised with Highway Engineers.

ENVIRONMENT

The Vale has reduced the staffing of the Ecology Section which is alarming and has been reduced very surreptitiously. We should express our concern about the reduced commitment to the environment.