

CABINET - TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
P Davies

J Gebbie
M J Evans

HM Williams
M Jones

E L P Caparros

Officers:

Oscar Roberts
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Mark Shephard
Lindsay Harvey
Michael Pitman

Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Chief Executive
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Melanie Evans declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 9 as a Pencoed Town Councilor and governor at Pencoed and Croesty Primary School
Cllr Jane Gebbie declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 9 as she was a LEA governor at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School

389. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 22/10/2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

390. Middle Tier Review

<p>Decision Made</p>	<p>The Corporate Director presented a report which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• updated in respect of the future direction for school improvement services in Wales (in response to the conclusions of the Welsh Government’s ‘Middle Tier Review’);• sought Cabinet approval to the development of a future operating model as broadly outlined in this report; and;• requested that Cabinet receives and approves further reports detailing specific financial implications and final model (probably in spring 2025). <p>The Corporate Director explained that the current Central South Consortium operating model has two core functions, table 3 of the report set out these functions and the approximation of the current resources allocated to each.</p> <p>He stated that based on the feedback from headteachers and a wider exploration of school-to-school working as a driver of improvement there is a consensus across the five local authorities in the Central South Consortium region to the core elements of a future operating model, the core elements were set out in 3.12 of the report. Appendix 1 detailed how this might operate with a more detailed, generic, possible operating model at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services stressed that this was a work in progress and therefore continuous work and progression would be still to come. He added that around Spring of 2025 the Corporate Director would be providing more proposals for Cabinet to consider.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked if this would be contained within this years budget or if there would be expectations for further funding in the future.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People stated that it was difficult to provide a figure until the operating model had been drawn up, however there will likely need to be some further funding for the transitional period.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• approved the development of a future operating model as broadly outlined in this report; and• agreed to receive and approve further reports detailing specific financial implications and final model (probably in spring 2025) and awaited further information on the potential funding for the transitional period.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

391. Building On Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan For Sustainable Care And Support For Adults In Bridgend County Borough Council

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which asked Cabinet to approve a Three-Year Plan and Year 1 Action Plan for 2024/2025 for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council which set out our strategic objectives, priorities and plans.</p> <p>The Three Year Plan identified seven priority areas of focus with key objectives on achieving these priorities. The Plan was set out at Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader stated that it was important to continually adapt what we do to fit the needs of those who are requiring these services and this three year plan provides those assurances. She added that meeting people in the community who have stories of how these services have helped them live a normal life was uplifting to hear and highlighted the need for these services and the Plan helped deliver these services more effectively.</p> <p>Points of discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• funding issues and the need to change the design and delivery of services, in a time where increase in demand of service was met with savings requirements.• Not duplicating the services provided by third sector parties.• Ensure we work more closely with our third sector partners.
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	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Three-Year Plan (Appendix 1) and the Year 1 Action Plan for 2024/2025 (Appendix 2) for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

392. Social Services Representations And Complaints Annual Report 2023/24

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report to Cabinet on the 2023/24 Annual Report on Social Services Representations and Complaints for approval.</p> <p>She explained that 2023/24 Annual Report contains statistical information in relation to the representations and complaints received during the year for both Adult Social Care and Children’s Social Care. These were broken down in section 3 of the report. These statistics were also used to inform service development year on year.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader thanked the Compliments and Complaints Resolution Manager as she had been instrumental in ensuring that we were compliant as well as presenting the information clearly in reports It was also clear that the complaints had reduced since last year which was pleasing to see.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources asked if staff received refresher training on how to deal with complaints effectively. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that she was confident that the improvements made overall and the reduction in overall complaints since last year were a good indication of staff training and their development.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Annual Report on Social Services Representations and Complaints for 2023/24 (attached as Appendix 1).</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

393. Update to the Council's Financial Procedure Rules

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought approval from Cabinet for an updated version of the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs).</p> <p>She explained that the proposed amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules were shown via tracked changes at Appendix 1, and a clean version of the Financial Procedure Rules is attached at Appendix 2. A report shall be taken to Council to amend the Constitution to incorporate the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules.</p> <p>The Leader highlighted that many of the Council services still use paper yet other services had moved exclusively to digital and therefore hoped we could move more services into digital where possible.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• approved the amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules outlined in Appendix 1;• noted that a separate report will be presented to Council to incorporate the revised Financial Procedure Rules into the Constitution, as attached at Appendix 2.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

394. Treasury Management Half Year Report to September 2024

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• highlighted Treasury Management Indicators for the period to September 2024, and;• ensured compliance with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA’s) ‘Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice’ (the CIPFA Code). <p>She outlined the inflation rates for the last 12 months up to September 2024 and what this meant for the Councils treasury management. A summary of this was set out in Appendix A of the report. Table 1 set out</p>
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	<p>the Council's external debt and investment position as of 30 September 2024 and added that there were no long-term investment (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 30 September 2024.</p> <p>The Leader thanked the Officers who work tirelessly on this and ensure that our money was continually working harder for us.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance asked what our debt was like compared with other Local Authorities</p> <p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change explained that it varied across Wales depending on the type of borrowing required, such as Cardiff, may borrow for very large regeneration projects. BCBC were somewhere in the middle of Local Authorities in terms of our borrowing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the treasury management activities for 2024-25 for the half year period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024.• Noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the half year ending 30 September 2024 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

395. Capital Programme Quarter 2 Update 2024-25

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided an update to Cabinet on the capital programme position for 2024-25 as at 30 September 2024 (Appendix A).• Sought agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval of a revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 (Appendix B).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked Cabinet to note the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and actual for 2024-25 (Appendix C). <p>The Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change summarised the Capital Programme for each Directorate as well as the resources available which were set out in section 3 of the report. She also provided a breakdown of the schemes that have been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2025-26 and beyond).</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance commented on the positives within this report but does not underestimate the challenges that there had been in getting to this stage.</p> <p>Cabinet Members asked various questions seeking clarification on a number of schemes and their information and these were answered by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noted the Council's Capital Programme 2024-25 Quarter 2 update to 30 September 2024 (Appendix A). • agreed that the revised Capital Programme (Appendix B) be submitted to Council for approval. • noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected for 2024-25 (Appendix C).
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

396. Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles 2025-2028

Decision Made	The Operational Manager – Shared Regulatory Services presented a report which sought Cabinet's endorsement of the publication of the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles for the next triennial period 2025 to 2028, and to forward the policy to Council for final approval and publication in accordance with the regulations.
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	<p>He provided a summary of the proposed changes outlined by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Following a public consultation with a range of stake holders on 16 May 2024 the Government published its conclusions and proposals that will impact the sector throughout Great Britain. The proposed changes were set out at section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance welcomed the report and said that the policy could be reviewed within the 3 year cycle if necessary.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked why South Wales Fire & Rescue were listed as the consultees. The Operational Manager – Shared Regulatory Services stated that these were a routine consultee on all gambling related issues and would raise any safety concerns should there be any.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet endorsed the proposed Statement of Licensing Principles as attached at Appendix A, and to subsequently forward it to Council for final approval and publication in accordance with the regulations.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

397. Shared Regulatory Services - Amendment To The Joint Working Agreement And Scheme Of Delegation Of Functions

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought approval for an amendment to the Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between the partner Councils for the provision of Regulatory Services and an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Functions following the implementation of the 'Special Procedures' regime under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.</p> <p>She explained that Welsh Government was expected to implement its long awaited 'Special Procedures' regime at the end of November 2024, under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. Part 4 of the Act relating to Special Procedures creates a mandatory licensing scheme for practitioners and businesses carrying out special procedures in Wales. The role of SRS in the operation of the Special Procedures regime were set out at section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked who would be monitoring businesses to ensure compliance as the report was not clear on who was responsible.</p>
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	<p>The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy stated that while the authority would be delegated to herself, this would then be sub-delegated to the appropriate and qualified team within SRS once they completed the training.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked who would be communicating the change to the businesses. The Operational Manager – Shared Regulatory Services stated that it was being communicated from a Welsh Government level in the initial stages but then the responsibility lay with the Local Authorities for further communications once the change had embed in.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the proposed changes to the Joint Working Agreement between the three Councils for the provision of Regulatory Services;2. Delegated authority to the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy to agree the terms of the Deed of Variation to the JWA and to arrange execution of the Deed of Variation on behalf of the Council;3. Approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out in paragraph 3.6;4. Noted that a report will be presented to Council on 20 November 2024 seeking amendments to the Constitution in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

398. Cabinet, Council And Overview And Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for items to be included on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 November 2024 to 28 February 2025 and for Cabinet to note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period.</p> <p>Each of the three Forward Work Programmes were set out in the appendices attached to the report.</p>
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	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:</p> <p>Approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 November 2024 to 28 February 2025 at Appendix 1;</p> <p>Noted the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period, as shown at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report, respectively.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

399. Parc Afon Ewenni Refurbishment of the Highways Depot at Waterton

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report updated Cabinet on the original proposal to reconstruct, and latterly relocate, the Highways Depot at Waterton. Work undertaken recently, and a recent review of capital funding available, has resulted in an updated proposal to maintain/refurbish the existing footprint within the remaining available capital budget on a prioritised basis.</p> <p>She provided background to the report and stated that since November 2023 council approved a virement of £1,173,530 from the Waterton Depot scheme to the Maesteg Town Hall project, leaving a remaining budget of £6,970,470. There have been other amendments to the budget during 2024-25, including the transfer of funding towards the cost of new waste vehicles, approved by Council, leaving a current budget of £7.091 million (of which £3.591 million is secured funding).</p> <p>She added that it was now apparent that the relocation of the Highways Depot to a site/location elsewhere was no longer an affordable option and that refurbishment works will need to be made on a prioritised basis within the existing footprint. The highest priority assets for maintenance/refurbishment were set out in 3.4 of the report.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment asked if we were confident that the money would be available for the highest priority assets. The Corporate Director was confident that this was the case.</p>
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	<p>The Leader sought clarity on section 8.3 of the report and the wording around £3.5 million. This was addressed by the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change. The recommendations were subsequently amended as below.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Noted the change of approach for delivery of the Highway Depot arising from changes to available capital budget alongside environmental and inflationary factors.2. Delegated Authority to the Corporate Director of Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and the Chief Officer, Finance, Housing and Change to finalise the urgent works to the salt barn and other identified facilities, to procure and undertake the necessary works using the capital funding that is available for the Project as outlined in Paragraph 8.3 of the report, with the amendment to the wording to “undertake the necessary works within the capital funding available of £3.591 million”
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

400. Future Waste Service Options

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which requested that Cabinet make a decision on the model for future service delivery and requested permission to enter discussions with Plan B to extend the current contract in compliance with Public Procurement Regulations as a contingency position.</p> <p>She highlighted to Cabinet the findings of second commissioned report from Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd on future recycling and waste options from April 2026. Further information was set out at section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Communities stated that the options for consideration at this stage were as follows:</p> <p>Option A – proceed to establish a LATCo or;</p> <p>Option B – Bring the service in house.</p>
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	<p>The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment stated that the delays had occurred were unfortunate but the second commissioned report was necessary. He believed that the contingency was necessary while we agreed on the way forward and this would provide some time to do that.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed that it was important to get back on track in terms of time scales and therefore set up a up a transition board starting December 2024 which would meet on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the contents of this report and Appendix A which includes a more detailed analysis of how the LATCo and in house models could operate.• Approved that the future waste service is delivered via Option B - in house service delivery.• Delegated authority to Corporate Director – Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy and the Chief Officer, Finance, Housing & Change, to commence work immediately to enter into discussions with Plan B to extend the current contract in compliance with Public Procurement Regulations to allow enough time as a contingency, should it be required, for smooth implementation and mobilisation of the future service model.• Set up a transition board starting December 2024 and to meet on a quarterly basis.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

401. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

402. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED</u>: The following items were not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>Following the application of the public interest test, Cabinet resolved pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

403. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED</u>: That the exempt minutes of the 22/10/2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

404. Disposal Of Ravenscourt

Decision Made	This decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

405. Porthcawl Regeneration Programme update

Decision Made	This decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	19 November 2024

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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 17:45.