

CABINET - TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 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

Present Virtually

Apologies for Absence

Officers:

Oscar Roberts
Stephen Griffiths
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Mark Shephard
Lindsay Harvey
Paul Miles
Helen Pembridge
Jonathan Parsons

Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Democratic Services Officer - Committees
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
Group Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development
Principal Officer Housing/Pollution, Vale of Glamorgan
Group Manager Planning & Development Services

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:-

- Cllr N Farr declared a personal interest in item 5 as the report mentions active travel on the Newton Nottage road, something she's been campaigning for since her election.
- Cllr M Evans declared a personal interest in item 4 as a school governor in both Croesty and Pencoed Comprehensive schools.
- Cllr M Evans declared a prejudicial interest in item 5 as the report references the Penprysg bridge. Cllr Evans left the meeting while this item was under consideration.
- Cllr J Spanswick declared a personal interest in item 5 as the report references the Singleton Junction in Brackla.
- Cllr E Caparros declared a personal interest in item 5 as the report references the Singleton Junction in Brackla, which is in his ward.

408. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023/24

<p>Decision Made</p>	<p>The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which summarized the safeguarding activities taking place across the Council, noting a high level of referrals and significant changes to accommodate both adult and child referrals, plus integration of new teams and service areas into the Directorate.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on the subjects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The makeup of referrals.• The Council's utilisation of agency staff.• Any relationship between abuse and school exclusion.• Monitoring of children outside school communities.• Implementation of new systems as part of the Corporate Safeguarding Framework• Whether the Council can arrange further mechanisms to support vulnerable families outside of those obligated by legislation.• Access to an aspect of the report covering Future Plans and Cybercrime. <p>These questions were addressed by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People, agreeing to distribute a presentation on Cybercrime to Members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the 2023-24 Annual Corporate Safeguarding report, thanking the Corporate Director and other officers for compiling the report. Cabinet further noted the</p>
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	Council's work being acknowledged as best practice and highlighting the need for safeguarding to help protect the most vulnerable within society.
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409. Co-Ordinated School Admission Arrangements 2027-2028

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People presented a report which sought Cabinet approval on the Co-Ordinated School Admission Arrangements for 2027-2028 and including a public consultation of the arrangements to allow for any comment or clarification from stakeholders and residents.</p> <p>Members of Cabinet asked questions relating to any changes from the previous year's report, the Council's arrangements for Welsh language provision, details on school catchment and deadlines for school admission. These questions were answered by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2027-2028 (as detailed in Appendix A to the report), thanking the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People and their team for compiling the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

410. Strategic Transport Projects

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director – Communities presented a report which updated Cabinet on the ongoing and planned list of projects aimed to improve transport links around the Borough, noting that there is currently no committed funds outside of Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital Region funding for existing projects within the Council's Capital Budget. The Director also noted that only one project can be nominated for funding per authority in 2025-26.</p> <p>Cabinet asked questions on the following topics: The Dock St extension travel arrangements, clarification</p>
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on the Singleton Junction in Brackla, whether existing housing projects could contribute to transport projects, the realistic ambitions of existing projects and translating the complexity of projects to the public. These questions were answered by the Corporate Director – Communities and the Group Manager Planning & Development Services, noting that certain projects would require funding to the level of Welsh or central government to be feasible.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

1. Considered the information contained within the report and noted the progress on the Active Travel Programme and Porthcawl Metrolink.
2. Approved the list of active travel projects outlined in paragraphs 3.3.7 – 3.3.9 to go forward as schemes for Capital Projects, Core Development Schemes and Minor Works Scheme as bids in the 2025/26 WG funding programme.
3. Deferred further work on the Merlin Crescent Active Travel scheme pending further development work and consultation.
4. Approved the proposed active travel and strategic transport projects as identified in the report, to be included as part of any future applications to the Cardiff Capital Region or other funding opportunities as well as inclusion in the Regional Transport Plan.
5. Approved the projects identified in the report to form the basis for discussion with other outside transport bodies on national and regional strategic transport priorities.
6. Approved in principle the works required to allow the Garw Valley Community Route to return to operational use in the short term subject to funding and in principle to take on the lease and operational control of the route in the longer term subject to an extensive site investigation, costings being prepared, budgets identified and reported back to Cabinet for formal approval.
7. Noted that any future capital schemes will need to be presented to Council for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

Cabinet further thanked the Corporate Director – Communities and the Group Manager Planning & Development Services for their work putting together the report. Cabinet clarified the report as aspirational due to continuing revenue challenges but noted the need for work to be done on these proposed projects and committed to continuing to push for these projects when financial viability allows.

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411. Flexible Working Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development presented a report outlining revisions to the Council’s Flexible Working Policy in line with legislation, feedback from services and trade unions, including changes to eligibility and criteria for requests being made to change an employee’s status.</p> <p>Cabinet posed a question on the status of time off in lieu, which was clarified as part of the Council’s separate Leave Policy.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approves the revised Flexible Working Policy, hoping that further improvements for working people are forthcoming from government.</p>
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

412. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy presented a report outlining to Cabinet the Information Reports published since the last meeting, namely the Regulation Of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2023/24.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the reports referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the covering report</p>
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

413. Urgent Items

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

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Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

414. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4, of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If following the application of the public interest test Cabinet resolves pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

415. Compulsory Purchase of a Long Term Problematic Empty Property

Decision Made	The decision relating to this item is not available for public inspection as the report is exempt.
Date Decision Made	10 December 2024

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

The meeting closed at 16:15.

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