

CABINET - TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
M J Evans

J Gebbie
M Jones

E L P Caparros

P Davies

Present Virtually

HM Williams

Apologies for Absence

None.

Officers:

Mark Shephard
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Adam Provoost
Lindsay Harvey
Gary Ennis
Kelly Watson
Stephen Griffiths
Oscar Roberts

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director – Communities
Strategic Planning Policy Team Leader
Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People
Group Manager Business Support
Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Democratic Services Officer – Committees
Business Administrative Apprentice – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jane Gebbie – Personal – Item 6 – as Chair of Governors of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School

433. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and Draft Budget Consultation Process

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell, Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 was to provide Cabinet with findings and recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy from the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel as well as the comments and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the report, the proposed budget pressures and the budget reduction proposals.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet noted the recommendations made by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel and the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees, noting the public interest in areas of the budget including proposals regarding music teaching in schools. Cabinet further noted the level of feedback from residents, teachers and schools regarding proposed cuts to the school music service and indicated that that cut would not be proceeding.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

434. Update On Local Land Charges National Programme

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager Business Support was to update Cabinet on the Local Land Charges National Programme and BCBC's progress in migrating Local Land Charges data following a previous report to Cabinet in November 2022, with a live migration planned for the 20th of February 2025.</p> <p>Members posed questions on public engagement to inform of the changes, current delays within the system for land search enquiries and financial pressures within the budget. These questions were addressed by the Group Manager Business Support and the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change, confirming that all local real estate agents are fully aware of the process.</p> |
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| | RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the report. |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

435. Revised Protocol for Street Naming and Numbering

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Group Manager Business Support was to clarify a revision of the Protocol for Street Naming and Numbering for future local developers and those wishing to change street names, increasing transparency of the process.</p> <p>Members posed questions on revision of council charges, retroactive applications and potential resident involvement in street naming. These questions were addressed by the Group Manager Business Support, clarifying that Town and Community Councils are required to be consulted about new street names.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the new Street Naming and Numbering Protocol.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

436. School Admissions Policy 2026-2027

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People was to seek Cabinet approval for the updated School Admissions Policy.</p> <p>Members asked a question on whether any substantive changes had been made, which was addressed by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People clarifying that only minor changes had been made.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the School Admissions Policy 2026-2027.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

437. Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2024-25

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change was to provide an update to members of the Council’s updated Capital Programme position as at the end of December 2024 as well as several proposed changes to the Programme to be considered.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the Council’s Capital Programme 2024-25 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2024 (at Appendix A to the report).• 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). <p>Cabinet also noted the many projects currently in progress as part of the Capital Programme.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

438. Information Report for Noting

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy was to inform Cabinet of the publication of the Monitoring Report for Corporate Complaints.</p> <p>Members posed questions on the number of Freedom of Information Requests received by the Council, the time required to respond to them and the amount of and support for requests processed on behalf of public bodies. These questions were addressed by the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the report.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

439. Affordable Housing Draft SPG Consultation

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to seek approval to consult on a draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance to provide developers with specific guidance on all requirements, definitions and obligations connected to the building of sustainable</p> |
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| | <p>housing in ongoing and future projects within Bridgend County. The consultation will last six weeks, after which the report will be taken back to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>Members posed questions regarding affordability, potential allowance for vulnerable residents and the percentage of proposed mortgages for buying or renting. These questions were answered by the Corporate Director – Communities and the Strategic Planning Policy Team Leader, noting that the consultation will be taking feedback from Members and residents onboard for the eventual Supplementary Planning Guidance and the importance of safeguarding affordability alongside nomination rights as a Local Authority.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the draft Affordable Housing SPG (attached at Appendix 1) as the basis for a public consultation period of 6 weeks.• Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical or factual corrections as necessary prior to public consultation.• Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to undertake the public consultation and to report the results of the public consultation back to Cabinet for approval to send the Report to Council and seek adoption of the final SPG. |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

440. The Provision of Beach and Water Safety Services in Partnership with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to follow the agreement between BCBC and the RNLI to enter into a seasonal beach lifeguarding partnership, and to seek Cabinet’s approval for the agreement to proceed. The proposed agreement would entail an increase of around £9,000 over the three-year agreement out of the existing Communities budget.</p> <p>Members posed questions on whether all Local Authorities should contribute to the RNLI for beach safety and the waiving of normal contract procedure rules. These questions were answered by the Corporate Director – Communities, mentioning that a Visitor Levy has been placed by Welsh Government.</p> |
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| | <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed to proceed with option 4 outlined in the report.• Agreed a waiver of the Contract Procedure Rules relating to the requirement to obtain quotes or tenders by open competition for the provision of the services on the basis that the services can be provided by only one tenderer in accordance with rule 3.2.3. In proposing such an action, it is highlighted that the RNLI is a unique organisation in respect of such services due to its core focus on coastal safety.• Delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Communities to finalise negotiations with the RNLI and enter into a three year partnership arrangement and associated service level agreement and any further deeds and documents which are supplemental to the agreement, and any subsequently required amendments, with the RNLI and in doing so agree a waiver under paragraph 3.2.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

**441. Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Compulsory Purchase Order
General Vesting Declaration**

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to update Cabinet on the Porthcawl Compulsory Purchase Order following confirmation in December 2023 as well as engagement and negotiation with affected landowners.</p> <p>Members posed a question on the financial worth and viability of the Compulsory Purchase Order process. This was answered by the Corporate Director – Communities, noting that the CPO was required and in the public interest to give the maximum benefit back to the Borough from this process.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities in consultation with the Monitoring Officer to take all steps to implement the CPO including, as applicable, to execute the GVD in the form as shown at Appendix C of the report (subject to such amendments as the Corporate Director - Communities may authorise) and/or to serve Notices of Entry in respect of interests and rights in the CPO land.• Authorised the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Monitoring Officer to negotiate, agree terms and enter into agreements with affected parties, making provision for the |
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| | <p>payment of compensation that result from the making of the GVD for the purposes of enabling the comprehensive development of the PWRS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In parallel to the making of the GVD, authorised the Corporate Director - Communities in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to continue to engage in negotiation with affected parties to achieve voluntary acquisition prior to the GVD taking effect and to amend the GVD as appropriate should voluntary acquisition be achieved prior to it being executed.• Authorised the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Monitoring Officer to take all steps in relation to any legal proceedings relating to the CPO including defending or settling claims referred to the Upper Tribunal and/or applications to the courts and any appeals.• Noted that any future decisions in connection with the disposal of the site and associated development will be reported back to Cabinet for approval and that any future planning application will be subject to determination by the Council’s Development Control Committee. <p>Cabinet also thanked the Corporate Director and her teams for their dedicated work in making this project come to fruition.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

444. Urgent Items

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| Decision Made | <u>RESOLVED</u> : None. |
| Date Decision Made | 4 February 2025 |

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

The meeting closed at 16:00.