

Public Document Pack
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.

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Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday 29 January 2025

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB on **Wednesday, 5 February 2025 at 16:00**.

AGENDA

1 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence from Members.

2 Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.

3 Approval of Minutes

To receive for approval the minutes of 15/01/2025

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4 To receive announcements from:

- (i) Mayor (or person presiding)
- (ii) Chief Executive

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- 5 To receive announcements by the Leader
- 6 Adoption of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy 17 - 20
- 7 Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2024-25 21 - 40
- 8 To receive the following Question from:

Councillor Heidi Bennett to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

There are a number of derelict and degrading buildings across the County, but this question focuses on the heart of Bridgend Town Centre where a number of buildings have been derelict eyesores for years, even decades.

I appreciate BCBC does not own any of the derelict buildings, and may even be signposting owners to investment/grant opportunities. I also acknowledge that some owners/developers have been bringing some of their buildings back into use, and appreciate we have all benefitted from some spectacular high quality design and builds in pockets throughout the town, particularly those that have transformed the night time economy.

However, there remain a number of notable buildings where there doesn't seem to have been much, if any, activity or progress made by owners in bringing them back into use.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member advise

- What is BCBC doing to push progress on the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan in relation to upgrading, utilising or replacing these buildings and improving our town centre?

- 9 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Heidi Bennett

Motion to the Bridgend County Borough Council on the Closure of 115 Crown Post Offices and the Risk of 1,000 Job Losses

Motion:

This Council notes:

The recent announcement by Post Office Ltd / the UK Government to close 115 Crown Post Offices across the country, which puts at risk the jobs of approximately 1,000 workers in the postal sector.

The vital role that Crown Post Offices play in many communities, particularly in rural and deprived urban areas, where they provide essential services such as postal services, banking, bill payments, and access to government services.

The significant and adverse social and economic impact these closures will have, not only on the workers facing redundancy and loss of jobs, but also on the communities that rely on the public services provided by these Crown Post Offices and the erosion of those services in communities already facing challenges.

The longstanding history of Crown Post Offices as a key part of the national infrastructure, providing high-quality, accessible services to the public and employing skilled workers.

This Council believes:

That the closure of these Crown Post Offices is an unwarranted attack on public services, jobs, and the communities that depend on them.

That the loss of 1,000 jobs in the postal sector will have a significant impact on families, communities, and local economies, and will contribute to rising unemployment and social inequality in already disadvantaged areas.

That the government and postal management have failed to adequately invest in the Crown Post Office network and have not provided sufficient justification for the proposed closures, which seem to be driven by profit motives rather than the public good.

That these closures form part of a wider, worrying trend towards the privatisation and outsourcing of essential public services, which undermines the principle of public accountability and reduces the quality of, and potentially the range of services provided to the public.

Resolves:

To express this Council's strong opposition to the proposed closure of 115 Crown Post Offices and to formally call on Post Office Ltd / the UK Government to halt the closure programme immediately.

To support the workers affected by the potential loss of 1,000 jobs, including offering solidarity to trade unions and local organisations campaigning to save the Crown Post Offices.

To work with other local authorities, unions, and community groups to raise awareness of the negative impact these closures will have and to mobilise public opposition to the proposals.

To call on the UK Government and [Post Office Ltd] to ensure that any future plans for Crown Post Offices are properly consulted on and that the interests of both workers and the communities they serve are fully considered.

To invite representatives from [Post Office Ltd] to meet with the Council to discuss these closures and explore alternative solutions that would secure the future of the Crown Post Office network, protect jobs, and continue to provide essential services to the public.

Further resolves:

To issue a formal letter of protest to Post Office Ltd and the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, expressing the Council's concern over the proposed closures and urging a reconsideration of the decision.

To encourage local residents to engage in the consultation process and to support campaigns aimed at preventing the closure of Crown Post Offices.

To offer assistance to Bridgend Crown Post Office workers facing redundancy, including providing access to training, employment support, and job-retraining initiatives.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council

Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB



To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded live and be available on the Council's internet site. Any queries regarding the meeting, then please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Distribution:

All Members

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

H T Bennett
JPD Blundell
P Davies
GH Haines
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
A W Ulberini-Williams

A R Berrow
E L P Caparros
M J Evans
M L Hughes
J E Pratt
I Williams

F D Bletsoe
RJ Collins
J Gebbie
M Jones
JC Spanswick
E D Winstanley

S J Bletsoe
HJ David
RM Granville
M Lewis
JH Tildesley MBE
T Wood

Present Virtually

S Aspey
P Ford
D M Hughes
W J Kendall
A Wathan
R Williams

N Clarke
W R Goode
RM James
R J Smith
AJ Williams

C L C Davies
S J Griffiths
P W Jenkins
I M Spiller
HM Williams

N Farr
D T Harrison
M R John
T Thomas
MJ Williams

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Michael Pitman
Mark Shephard
Kelly Watson

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

80. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:- Cllr G Walter Cllr M Kearn
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

81. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of personal interest were made by in Agenda Item 8 by the undermentioned Councillors, as members of their family were in receipt of Council Tax Reduction under the CTR scheme:- Councillor N Farr Councillor JC Spanswick Councillor T Wood declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8., as he received a single occupancy reduction in Council Tax for his property. Councillor P Davies declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8., as a close family member was in receipt of Council Tax reduction. Councillor Davies left the meeting whilst this item was being considered Councillor J Pratt declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4., as a member of Her Majesty's Coastguards.
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 20 November 2024, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025	

83. Presentation to Council by representatives of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented a report, which invited Mr. Fin Monahan, Chief Officer, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and colleagues to give a power point presentation, on the latest work of the service.</p> <p>Following conclusion of the presentation, the Mayor invited questions from members, which included the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What qualities, values and skills do you have to take on the operational changes required in the service in order to deal effectively with the previous cultural failings that had been experienced; • In Llantwit Major all 4 emergency services are based at one location. Do you think this type of joint service is effective and sustainable from a 'cost' perspective; • In respect of usable reserves, it was noted from the power point slides that between 2025/26 there was a figure of approximately £3m reduction in reserves. There was a similar dip in 2027/28, so please could we have an update on this for the remainder of 2027/28. Also, what cost pressures are anticipated within the above periods to reduce these reserves; • In terms of reaching out to the most vulnerable in society, my understanding is that you do not currently record the numbers of care experienced children and young people, could you explain the reasons for this. Also, how do you collaborate and/or liaise with other emergency services such as the South Wales Police, etc regarding looking after the most vulnerable; • With regards to finances, the presentation confirmed that there was proposed a 4.88% precept to BCBC, however, a third of that was directly connected to National Insurance Contributions (NIC) in the last budget figures. It was also confirmed in the presentation, that the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service would be reimbursed this via BCBC through Welsh Government (WG). Is this the case, as I thought that WG were likely to reimburse the Council's NIC increase and possibly those in our 'direct supply chain'. Some clarity here would be welcomed;
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Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made)
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

86. Appointment Process: Chief Executive

Decision Made	<p>The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to provide Council with information about the recruitment process for the Chief Executive.</p> <p>She referred Members to the report and advised that the current Chief Executive would be retiring from BCBC on 30 June 2025.</p> <p>Through a competitive tendering process, Solace in Business had been appointed to assist in the recruitment process and what this would entail, was explained at the meeting by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>As the appointment to the post of Chief Executive had to be approved by Council, it was anticipated that an Extraordinary meeting of Council would be convened for this purpose on 2 April 2025, with this date (or an alternative date) being confirmed in due course.</p> <p>Though the membership of the Appointments Committee had been agreed at the last Annual meeting of Council, two substitutions would now be on the Panel to consider the Chief Executives appointment, from the Labour and BCI groups.</p> <p>Therefore the composition of the Appointments Committee for this appointment would be as follows:-</p> <p>Councillor JC Spanswick (Chairperson) Councillor J Gebbie Councillor Amanda Williams (substituting Councillor T Wood) Councillor I Spiller Councillor R Penhale-Thomas Councillor RM James Councillor M Evans (substituting Councillor HM Williams) Councillor J Paul-Blundell</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Council approved the recruitment process as outlined at</p>
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	paragraph 3.2 of the report.
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

87. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025-26

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change, submitted a report, in order to provide Council with information regarding the proposed 2025-26 Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme, and to seek its approval to adopt this CTR scheme by 31 January 2025.</p> <p>She advised that on 27 November 2013, the Welsh Assembly laid regulations that implemented the arrangements to support those who will pay council tax. The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013 prescribe the main features of the scheme to be adopted by all councils in Wales. Minor amendments to these regulations have since been made each financial year.</p> <p>The regulations updated the financial figures used in the CTR schemes and make amendments to the categories reflected in the bullet points shown at paragraph 3.4 of the report.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change confirmed that Council must adopt a CTR Scheme, regardless of whether it applies any of the discretionary elements that are included within the scheme. If the Council fails to approve a scheme, then a default scheme would apply. The Council can only apply discretion if it makes its own scheme in accordance with the Prescribed Requirements Regulations.</p> <p>It was proposed that the discretionary elements of the CTR Scheme remained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extended payment period is maintained at the minimum standard of 4 weeks. • War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to CTR. The estimated cost of this proposal within the financial year is £5,773. • Backdating is maintained at the minimum standard of 3 months. <p>The total estimated cost to the Council for these three proposals is £5,773 for 2025-26.</p>
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	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	That Council noted the information contained above and in the report and adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025-26, as set out in paragraphs 3.15 to 3.20 (of the report.)
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025	

88. Amendment to the Constitution - Financial Procedure Rules

Decision Made	<p>The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval from Council to amend the Constitution in relation to the Financial Procedure Rules (FPR's).</p> <p>She explained that following a meeting of Council on 20 November 2024, the FPRs have been further reviewed by officers and Cabinet Members.</p> <p>Therefore, since then, on 14 January 2025 Cabinet approved the further revisions to the FPR's as shown at paragraph 3.2 of the report and attached at Appendix 1 (to the report).</p> <p>A Member referred to the revision relating to paragraph 9.4 of the FPR's, where it referenced that there are a small number of exceptions where some payments are permitted to be paid in advance without prior approval. He noted that these included to Third Sector organisations. He asked the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change if she could share a little more information regarding this.</p> <p>She stated that any third sector organisation that requested an advance payment would be suitably assessed should they have met the relevant criteria. Where financial hardship could be proven that if they were not paid in advance they would face such hardship, then a payment could be made to the organisation in question in advance.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p>	<p>That Council approved the amendments to the Constitution in relation to the revised Financial Procedure Rules attached as Appendix 1 to the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025	

Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy informed Council of an information report for noting, that had been published since the last scheduled meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council acknowledged the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

90. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Martin Williams to the Leader (response circulated to Members in advance of the meeting).</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams (to the Leader) at the meeting.</p>
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

91. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Ian Williams

Decision Made	<p>The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Ian Williams:-</p> <p>“During the recent consultation and subsequent teams meeting with Arcadis regarding the Cafe & Cultural Quarter it was evident from the three options presented that safely reintroducing traffic to Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street have not been considered to date.</p> <p>It is also noted “The Bridgend Town Centre Update.. Aug 24” only makes reference to “full de-pedestrianisation”.</p> <p>This council asks cabinet to consider committing to a partial reintroduction of traffic to Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street at the earliest practicable opportunity to support town centre traders and previously recognised residents’ consultation.”</p>
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	<p>An amendment to the Motion was moved and this was duly seconded and subsequently agreed by Council. The amended Notice of Motion so supported therefore, was as follows, with the amendment being shown below in bold:-</p> <p>“During the recent consultation and subsequent teams meeting with Arcadis regarding the Cafe & Cultural Quarter it was evident from the three options presented that safely reintroducing traffic to Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street have not been considered to date.</p> <p>It is also noted “The Bridgend Town Centre Update.. Aug 24” only makes reference to “full de-pedestrianisation”.</p> <p>That this Council asks cabinet to consider committing to a partial reintroduction of traffic and also modernisation of all transport and access to Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street at the earliest practicable opportunity to support town centre traders and previously recognised residents’ consultation”.</p>
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

92. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	15 January 2025

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

The meeting closed at 18:10.

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Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	5 FEBRUARY 2025
Report Title:	ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED BY PUBLIC TRAGEDY
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Responsible Officer:	LOWRIE MORGAN-HUGHES EMERGENCY PLANNING MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon policy framework or procedure rules
Executive Summary:	This report seeks Bridgend County Borough Council’s support for the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy which outlines 6 principles to ensure public servants act in the public interest in their treatment of individuals, families and communities affected by such events.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the principles of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy and seek approval for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to demonstrate its commitment to upholding the principles by signing up to the charter.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy was proposed by Bishop James Jones in his report on the experiences of families affected by the Hillsborough disaster, published in November 2017. It formalises a commitment to transparency, acting in the public interest, and treatment of the bereaved with care and compassion. In the report, Bishop James highlights 3 points of learning in particular:
 - a charter for families bereaved through public tragedy
 - ‘proper participation’ of bereaved families at inquests
 - a duty of candour which should require police officers – serving or retired – to cooperate fully with investigations undertaken by the Independent Police Complaints Commission or its successor body.

2.2 In collaboration with Local Resilience Forums, South Wales Police arranged a series of workshops throughout 2024 which included presentations from Bishop John James. These culminated, in October 2024, with an event which highlighted the lasting impact on those affected by bereavement through public tragedy through first hand accounts of these experiences, shared in person by individuals who lost loved ones in public tragedies, including Aberfan, Manchester Arena Attack, Hillsborough and Grenfell Tower. These workshops have reinforced the importance of the charter and its adoption by public bodies across Wales.

2.3 The charter outlines 6 principles: -

- I. In the event of a public tragedy, support the activation of emergency plans and deployment of resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
- II. Place the public interest above our own reputations.
- III. Approach forms of public scrutiny – including public inquiries and inquests – with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
- IV. Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
- V. Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
- VI. Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media Local Government Act 2000 / BCBC Code of Conduct

2.4 The majority of these principles are already legal requirements for Local Authorities and BCBC has recognised these requirements through their incorporation in its constitution and codes of conduct. Adoption of the Charter will reinforce the council's commitment to uphold the principles covered in the Charter, as outlined above, and ensure that families affected by the loss of loved ones through major incidents are treated with compassion and their views are not overlooked during response and recovery.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 South Wales Police and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council are seeking support for the charter from partner organisations with the aim of all partner agencies having signed the Charter by March 2025.

3.2 In adopting the Charter, the council will be making a public commitment to treating families bereaved by public tragedy with care and compassion and to acting with transparency and in public interest, in responding to and supporting communities to recover from such events.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent implications from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial impacts from this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Adopt the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy.
- Authorise the Leader and the Chief Executive to jointly sign the Charter on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council.

Background documents

None

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Agenda Item 7

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	5 FEBRUARY 2025
Report Title:	CAPITAL PROGRAMME QUARTER 3 UPDATE 2024-25
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	HUW POWELL CAPITAL ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfils that requirement. There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The report provides an update on the quarter 3 spend and projected spend for 2024-25 as at 31 December 2024, the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25.• Appendix A shows the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 31 December 2024 for the individual schemes in 2024-25.• Appendix B shows the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34.• Appendix C provides details of the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected 2024-25.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' (2021 edition) requirement to report performance against all forward looking indicators on a quarterly basis.
- Provide an update to Council on the capital programme position for 2024-25 as at 31 December 2024 (**Appendix A**).

- Ask Council to note the net slippage of £11.472 million into 2025-26 as detailed in **Appendix B**.
- Seek Council's approval of the new additions /reductions to the capital programme in 2024-25 totalling £1.070 million as outlined in **Appendix B**.
- Ask Council to note the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected for 2024-25 (**Appendix C**).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.
- 2.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance: -
- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
 - CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
 - Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments
- 2.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy 2024-25, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2024-25, was approved by Council on 28 February 2024.
- 2.4 On 28 February 2024 Council approved a capital budget of £110.537 million for 2024-25 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2024-25 to 2033-34. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 20 November 2024, with a revised budget of £66.058 million.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2024-25

- 3.1.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2024-25 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2024-25 currently totals £55.656 million, of which £27.343 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £28.313 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the November 2024 approved Council position to Quarter 3:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2024-25

Directorate	Approved Council November 2024	New Approvals/ (Reductions)	Virements	Slippage (to)/from future years	Revised Budget 2024-25
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Family Support	18,895	731	-	(2,475)	17,151
Social Services and Wellbeing	839	-	-	-	839
Communities	39,499	250	-	(8,517)	31,232
Chief Executive's	5,830	89	-	(480)	5,439
Council Wide	995	-	-	-	995
Total	66,058	1,070	-	(11,472)	55,656

3.1.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2024-25. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2024-25 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
<i>BCBC Resources:</i>	
Capital Receipts	10,751
Earmarked Reserves	9,497
Unsupported Borrowing	2,422
Supported Borrowing	3,937
Other Loans	160
Revenue Contribution	576
Total BCBC Resources	27,343
<i>External Resources:</i>	
S106	2,855
Grants	25,458
Total External Resources	28,313
TOTAL RESOURCES	55,656

- 3.1.3 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2024-25 compared to the projected year end spend at 31 December 2024. There are currently no projected under or over spends on any of the schemes at year end.
- 3.1.4 However, a number of schemes have been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2025-26 and beyond).

Heronsbridge Replacement (£1.200 million)

Welsh Government has approved the revised Outline Business Case and Council subsequently approved the additional funding required to deliver the scheme in November 2024. Cabinet approval has now been received to tender the project which will begin in February 2025, therefore, £1.200 million has been slipped to 2025-26 to progress the project through the next design stages.

Coety Primary School Extension (£1.500 million)

The design of the extension is being progressed and a planning application will be submitted shortly for consideration. Subject to the outcome of the planning process, the tender process will begin in 2025-26, therefore, £1.500 million has been slipped to 2025-2026 to progress the project through the next stages of development.

Community Play Areas (£1.000 million)

Tender documentation for the next phase of the play area refurbishment programme is currently being reviewed by BCBC's procurement department, and tenders will be issued in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the works will commence in the first quarter of 2025-26 and therefore £1.000 million has been slipped to 2025-26.

Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres Community Asset Transfers (£0.500 million)

Due to the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) officer post being vacant for a short period the number of funding applications approved has been lower than projected, resulting in a reduced spend in 2024-25. Therefore, £0.500 million is being slipped to fund works in 2025-26.

Ewenny Road Industrial Estate (£3.000 million)

The grant has been slipped due to delays in securing planning permission, which has now been granted, and the impact that has had on progressing the project, including the retender of the grant funded works. The retender has been completed and it is hoped contracts will be exchanged in the near future to enable the project to progress.

CESP/Arbed Phase 1 (£0.426 million)

Remedial works are progressing with work ongoing on 37 homes. Following the completion of planning surveys on all properties in the programme, the delivery plan provided by the main contractor has been updated and extends until December 2026. As a result, £0.426 million has been slipped to fund the remedial works to be undertaken in 2025-26.

Waterton Upgrade (£3.591 million)

On 22 October 2024 Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to officers to finalise the urgent works to the salt barn and other identified facilities. Work is now underway to pull together the procurement documentation to procure the necessary works, in line with the priorities outlined in the October report, but it is not envisaged that these works will be undertaken until 2025-26.

Health & Wellbeing Village (£0.480 million)

The Sunnyside Wellness village is an integrated social housing, health and open space project on the edge of Bridgend Town Centre that is being developed by Linc Cymru. £0.480 million of grant funding from the Integrated Care Fund has previously been approved towards the scheme's overall costs. The funding agreement is directly between Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and the Council, and a condition of the funding is that the Council must ensure that certain grant terms and conditions are fulfilled when passing on the funding to a third party, e.g. a legal charge on the property. It is anticipated that these conditions will be met in 2025-26 and the funding will then be passed to Linc Cymru.

In addition to the above schemes, one scheme has been identified as requiring budget to be brought forward from 2025-26 to 2024-25:

Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Replacement (£0.225 million)

The scheme is progressing well, and the team are currently working through Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 4. It is projected that the spend on the scheme in 2024-25 will be £0.500 million, therefore £0.225 million is being brought forward from 2025-26 to fund the projected expenditure.

- 3.1.5 There are a number of amendments to the capital programme for 2024-25, such as new and amended schemes, since the capital programme was last approved, including:

Schools Capital Maintenance Grant (£0.731million)

A variation approval letter from Welsh Government has been received, confirming an additional £0.731 million has been allocated from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Repairs and Maintenance Grant, increasing the allocation for 2024-25 to £1.826 million. The funding will support capital maintenance work and will assist in reducing revenue costs by improving energy efficiency and performance of the school buildings.

Porthcawl Regeneration (£0.250 million)

The freehold of the former Monster Park in Porthcawl was acquired by BCBC voluntarily for £0.250 million in June 2023 whilst the land was subject to an ongoing Compulsory Purchase Order. Pursuant to the terms of the Owners Agreement in place between BCBC and Welsh Government, the cost of the freehold purchase is repayable by Welsh Government following production of a written demand by BCBC, and an invoice has now been submitted to Welsh Government. The repayment of the £0.250 million to BCBC does not alter the ownership position with BCBC remaining the freehold owner and the WG payment representing fulfilment of the WG obligations within the Owners agreement. The freehold purchase was funded from the Porthcawl Regeneration budget in 2023-24, therefore £0.250 million is being added back to the budget.

Hwb Schools IT (£0.089 million)

£0.089 million has been added to Hwb Schools IT in relation to a range of planned ICT purchases in 2024-25. These will be funded from an existing earmarked reserve established for the purchase of ICT equipment by schools from their annual ICT SLA contributions.

3.1.6 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix B**.

3.2 Prudential and Other Indicators 2024-25 Monitoring

3.2.1 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end a number of prudential indicators were included in the Capital Strategy which was approved by Council on 28 February 2024. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

3.2.2 In February 2024, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2024-25, which included the Prudential Indicators for 2024-25.

3.2.3 **Appendix C** details the actual indicators for 2023-24, the estimated indicators for 2024-25 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy approved by Council on 28 February 2024 and the projected indicators for 2024-25 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved indicators.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty, and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services, and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 These are reflected within the report where relevant to specific schemes.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2024-25 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2024 (**Appendix A**).
- notes the net slippage of £11.472 million to 2025-26 as detailed in **Appendix B**.
- approves the new additions/reductions to the capital programme in 2024-25 totalling £1.070 million as outlined in **Appendix B**.
- notes the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected for 2024-25 (**Appendix C**).

Background documents

None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

QUARTER 3 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

APPENDIX A

	Budget 24-25 (Council Nov 24)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage (to)/from Future Years	Revised Budget 2024-25	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Education & Family Support

1	HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	100			100	22	100	-	
2	HERONSBRIDGE REPLACEMENT	1,338		(1,200)	138	10	138	-	
3	MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	287		225	512	304	512	-	
4	Y G BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	411			411	226	411	-	
5	BRIDGEND WEST MIM	-			-	-	-	-	
6	YSGOL GYFYN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	97			97	-	97	-	
7	LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	-			-	-	-	-	
8	GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	61			61	-	61	-	
9	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL BAND A	51			51	-	51	-	
10	PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56			56	-	56	-	
11	ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	277			277	-	277	-	
12	BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	38			38	-	38	-	
13	CHILDRENS DIRECTORATE MINOR WORKS	462			462	18	462	-	
14	SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	56			56	8	56	-	
15	SCHOOL MODERNISATION	336			336	5	336	-	
16	PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	862			862	19	862	-	
17	COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTENSION	1,638		(1,500)	138	19	138	-	
18	BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE SIX CLASSROOMS	1,660			1,660	243	1,660	-	
19	BRYNTIRION COMP HIGHWAYS	134			134	-	134	-	
20	SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	3,524	731		4,255	671	4,255	-	
21	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	550			550	-	550	-	
22	WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	550			550	-	550	-	
23	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	1,444			1,444	786	1,444	-	
24	COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	2,328			2,328	866	2,328	-	
25	ALN CAPITAL GRANT	1,229			1,229	352	1,229	-	
26	YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	437			437	-	437	-	
27	PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	370			370	55	370	-	
28	FLYING START EXTENSION - NANTYMOEL PRIMARY	563			563	24	563	-	
29	FLYING START HIGHWAYS	36			36	-	36	-	
TOTAL Education & Family Support		18,895	731	-	(2,475)	17,151	3,627	17,151	-

Social Services and Wellbeing

30	BRYN Y CAE - UPGRADE HFE'S	40			40	-	40	-	
31	TY CWM OGWR	23			23	-	23	-	
32	WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	212			212	40	212	-	
33	BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10			10	-	10	-	
34	CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	74			74	1	74	-	
35	BREAKAWAY	98			98	60	98	-	

	Budget 24-25 (Council Nov 24)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage (to)/from Future Years	Revised Budget 2024-25	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
36 COMMUNITY CENTRES	167				167	31	167	-	
37 BRYNGARW HOUSE	8				8	-	8	-	
38 YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURT	99				99	90	99	-	
39 OGMORE VALLEY LIFE CENTRE	108				108	97	108	-	
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	839	-	-	-	839	319	839	-	-

Communities

Street Scene

40 COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	2,851			(1,000)	1,851	1,352	1,851	-	
41 PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS	936			(500)	436	357	436	-	
42 ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	11	-	
43 CITY DEAL	-				-	-	-	-	
44 COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	75				75	18	75	-	
45 REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135				135	-	135	-	
46 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	20				20	11	20	-	
47 20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	521				521	83	521	-	
48 ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	6				6	(5)	6	-	
49 PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	-				-	(41)	-	-	
50 HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	494				494	485	494	-	
51 CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250				250	189	250	-	
52 CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	-				-	(9)	-	-	
53 PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	65				65	20	65	-	
54 HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT	1,000				1,000	855	1,000	-	
55 REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	496				496	114	496	-	
56 RIVER BRIDGE PROTECTION MEASURES	22				22	-	22	-	
57 COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	762				762	26	762	-	
58 ULEV TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	23				23	16	23	-	
59 FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	155				155	86	155	-	
60 NET ZERO CARBON FLEET	147				147	-	147	-	
61 PORTHCAWL METRO LINK (CCR)	948				948	810	948	-	
62 RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE	109				109	-	109	-	
63 FLEET VEHICLES	1,864				1,864	135	1,864	-	
64 CORNELLY CEMETERY EXTENSION	5				5	5	5	-	
65 PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXTENSION	35				35	35	35	-	
66 CEMETERIES	314				314	-	314	-	
67 S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	39				39	3	39	-	
68 ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	380				380	1	380	-	
69 PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	6				6	-	6	-	
70 YNYSAWDRE TO BRYNCETHIN ATR	-				-	(19)	-	-	
71 COAL TIP SAFETY	457				457	-	457	-	
72 TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	290				290	-	290	-	
73 GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT	340				340	-	340	-	
74 WASTE VEHICLES					-	-	-	-	
TOTAL Streetscene	12,756	0	0	-1,500	11,256	4,527	11,256	0	0

	Budget 24-25 (Council Nov 24)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage (to)/from Future Years	Revised Budget 2024-25	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Regeneration & Development

75	EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	436			436	-	436	-		
76	COSY CORNER (PRIF)	-				(73)	-	-		
77	PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,616	250		2,866	17	2,866	-		
78	ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	417			417	77	417	-		
79	COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	210			210	24	210	-		
80	EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,493			493	8	493	-		
81	ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	1,804			(426)	1,378	65	1,378	-	
82	BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	-			-	-	-	-		
83	MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	1,547			1,547	1,330	1,547	-		
84	TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	219			219	51	219	-		
85	PORTHCAWL TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE	124			124	52	124	-		
86	COMM PROP ENHANCEMENT FUND	134			134	-	134	-		
87	URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	1,024			1,024	79	1,024	-		
88	2030 DECARBONISATION	715			715	92	715	-		
89	SHARED PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK	4,931			4,931	766	4,931	-		
90	LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE	110			110	30	110	-		
91	PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILION	1,675			1,675	637	1,675	-		
92	LOW CARBON HEAT GRANT	1,089			1,089	22	1,089	-		
TOTAL Regeneration & Development		20,544	250	-	3,426	17,368	3,178	17,368	-	-

Corporate Landlord

93	DDA WORKS	206			206	8	206	-		
94	MINOR WORKS	1,601			1,601	20	1,601	-		
95	FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	177			177	45	177	-		
96	BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	517			517	193	517	-		
97	WATERTON UPGRADE	3,591			(3,591)	-	-	-		
98	EVERGREEN HALL	60			60	60	60	-		
99	INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47			47	-	47	-		
TOTAL Corporate Landlord		6,199	-	-	(3,591)	2,608	326	2,608	-	-

TOTAL Communities

39,499	250	-	(8,517)	31,232	8,031	31,232	-	-
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Chief Executive

100	MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,947			1,947	1,819	1,947	-		
101	DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200			200	200	200	-		
102	HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	73			73	14	73	-		
103	ENABLE GRANT	270			270	79	270	-		
104	HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530			530	-	530	-		
105	HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	480			(480)	-	-	-		
106	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	1,066			1,066	263	1,066	-		
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness		4,566	-	-	(480)	4,086	2,375	4,086	-	-

	Budget 24-25 (Council Nov 24)	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage (to)/from Future Years	Revised Budget 2024-25	Total Expenditure to Date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) Spend	Impact on BCBC Resources	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
107	ICT INFRA SUPPORT	795			795	643	795	-		
108	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	102			102	-	102	-		
109	CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	38			38	-	38	-		
110	ICT DATA CENTRE REPLACEMENT	238			238	92	238	-		
111	HWB SCHOOLS IT	91	89		180	100	180	-		
TOTAL ICT		1,264	89	-	-	1,353	835	1,353	-	
TOTAL Chief Executive		5,830	89	-	(480)	5,439	3,210	5,439	-	
Council Wide Capital Budgets										
112	CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	773			773	-	773	-		
113	UNALLOCATED	222			222	-	222	-		
		995	-	-	-	995	-	995	-	
GRAND TOTAL		66,058	1,070	-	(11,472)	55,656	15,187	55,656	-	

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PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2023-24 and 2024-25

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA’s Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Table 1 shows the 2023-24 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 28 February 2024 and the projected capital expenditure for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2023-24 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding for 2024-25.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 24)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
Council Fund services	31.813	110.537	55,656
Right of Use Assets	0.00	3.149	3.149
TOTAL	31.813	113.686	58.805

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council’s own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (the ‘net financing requirement’ - borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 24)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
External sources	18.677	62.595	28.313
Own resources	7.420	36.289	20.824
Net Financing Requirement	5.716	14.802	9.668
TOTAL	31.813	113.686	58.805

The net financing requirement is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	3.298	3.385	1.069
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)	2.273	2.788	1.866
Total MRP & VRP	5.571	6.173	2.935
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.929	1.148	1.148
Total Own Resources	6.500	7.321	4.083

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's actual CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure during the year:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate – Capital Strategy £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	162.600	170.246	162.745
Opening PFI CFR	13.903	12.974	12.974
Total opening CFR	176.503	183.220	175.719
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	0.145	5.333	3.584
Movement in PFI and other long term leases CFR	(0.929)	2.148	2.001
Total movement in CFR	(0.784)	7.481	5.585
Closing CFR	175.719	190.701	181.304
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	5.716	14.802	9.668
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(5.571)	(6.173)	(2.935)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.929)	(1.148)	(1.148)
Total movement	(0.784)	7.481	5.585

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 24)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	117.682	118.049	108.736
Capital Financing Requirement	175.719	190.701	181.304

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25
	Actual	Estimate	Projection
	£m	(Council Feb 24)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	25.000	25.000
Authorised Limit Total	200.00	195.000	195.000
Operational boundary – borrowing	130.000	120.000	120.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	25.000	20.000	20.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	155.000	140.000	140.000
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	117.682	118.049	108.736

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate (Council Feb 24) £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	5.658	7.519	2.863
Other Financing costs	4.220	4.735	3.813
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	9.878	12.255	6.676
Proportion of net revenue stream	2.89%	3.58%	1.84%

This shows that in 2024-25, it was forecast that 3.58% of the Council's net revenue income will be spent on paying back the costs of capital expenditure. The current projection is anticipating it will be 1.84%.

The net revenue stream is calculated as the income from Welsh Government Revenue Settlement Grant plus Council Tax and NNDR, less Police and Community Council precepts.

The table below shows the Prudential Indicator of estimates of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2023-24 Actual £m	2024-25 Estimate £m	2024-25 Projection £m
Net Revenue Budget	343.841	360.671	360.671
Income from Commercial Investments	0.459	0.459	0.459
% Ratio	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%

The income receivable from the commercial property portfolio is not deemed to be a financial resilience risk in terms of being 'disproportionate' to the Council's overall income.