

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2024 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

H T Bennett
E L P Caparros
M J Evans
GH Haines
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
HM Williams

A R Berrow
RJ Collins
N Farr
M L Hughes
J E Pratt
I Williams

S J Bletsoe
HJ David
P Ford
M Jones
JC Spanswick
E D Winstanley

JPD Blundell
P Davies
RM Granville
M Lewis
JH Tildesley MBE
T Wood

Present Virtually

S Aspey
D T Harrison
M R John
T Thomas
AJ Williams

N Clarke
D M Hughes
W J Kendall
G Walter
MJ Williams

C L C Davies
RM James
R J Smith
A Wathan
R Williams

S J Griffiths
P W Jenkins
I M Spiller
A Williams

Officers:

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

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

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

58. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F D Bletsoe, J Gebbie, W R Goode and MJ Kearns
Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

59. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	Councillor E Winstanley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8., as she was employed by Awen Cultural Trust.
Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

60. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Minutes of a meeting of the Council dated 25 September 2024, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

61. Presentation To Council By Representatives Of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB gave a verbal presentation to Council on the latest position regarding repairs to the roof at the Princess of Wales Hospital (POW), Bridgend.</p> <p>He advised that the roof had unfortunately deteriorated over the last 40 years to the point where rainwater was now entering the building. As a result of this, around 190 patients and several clinics and units had</p>
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moved to other parts of the hospital, or to alternative sites, due to the risk of parts of the roof collapsing during high wind or heavy rain.

Mr. Mears stated that whilst this had an unavoidable impact on hospital services, plans were in place for managing and mitigating disruption for patients and he elaborated on what these were for the benefit of Members. He further added that remedial works would commence in November over a phased process. The replacement roof would be in place by the summer of 2025.

The cost for the replacement roof had been estimated at £20m and the Health Board were in discussions with Welsh Government regarding this. The problems with the roof were part of a multi-million maintenance backlog that the Health Board inherited, when it took over the responsibility for the Bridgend Borough area in 2019.

All the works required had been categorised on a 'risk basis'. When asked if funding had been focused more upon refurbishing the hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, as opposed to the POW hospital, Mr. Mears stated that it was not a question of this, but more a case of looking at the risks that Cwm Taf were managing and ensuring that, where appropriate, they concentrate their resources on where they are most needed across the Health Board.

Discussing how families can keep in touch with patients who may have had to move location, Mr. Mears stated that there had been dialogue with every patient affected in the POW hospital and where relevant, their family. The first priority was to relocate positions but now he was looking at how they were settling there, or whether their needs needed to be supported in another perhaps more specialist area of the service.

When asked about whether lessons would be learned from this issue and what procedures could be put in place to avoid any similar future critical incidents, Mr. Mears said he would be looking back at what has taken place since the Health Board had since taken on the POW site. He added that the Health Board's Estates team had a regular programme in place that was addressing problems over the last five years, including why issues with the roof had not been addressed previously.

Other than the roof there had also been significant problems with the fire alarm system, its electrical infrastructure and a number of other important issues, that were not immediately visible to patients or staff. These at the time posed the most risk, even more than the risk presented by the hospital roof.

Mr. Mears offered assurances about the ongoing welfare of staff at the POW hospital and confirmed that they had access to 24/7 health and wellbeing support.

Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

64. Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Housing presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek Council approval to amend the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2024-25.</p> <p>A summary of the report, was as follows:-</p> <p>The debt financing of any capital expenditure requires a charge to revenue to set aside resources to repay that debt in the future. This is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The level of debt that has to be provided for is known as the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).</p> <p>Debt is either supported, where Welsh Government provide funding within the local government settlement towards the cost of borrowing and repayment, or unsupported, where the Council has to meet the full cost of that borrowing from existing resources.</p> <p>The current MRP Policy requires the setting aside of MRP over a straightline basis, over a 45-year period for supported borrowings or the life of the asset for unsupported borrowing.</p> <p>A straight-line basis of MRP results in a higher cost in early years (when including interest costs), reducing over time.</p> <p>Using an annuity method of calculating MRP spreads the total cost – MRP plus interest – over the life of the asset and is considered to match the benefit gained from the use of the asset over its full lifetime.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Housing, confirmed that Council approved the Annual MRP Policy 2024-25 as part of the Capital Strategy in February 2024. This report proposed changing the calculation of MRP identified in paragraph i. and ii. of the Policy.</p> <p>The report gave details of the changes proposed.</p> <p>Finally, the report outlined the financial implications relating to the suggested proposals.</p>
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65. To receive the following Questions from:

Decision Made	Councillor I Williams to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response circulated previously to members) A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams to the Leader
Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

66. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	23 October 2024

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

The meeting closed at 17:18.