

CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
M J Evans

J Gebbie
M Jones

HM Williams

E L P Caparros

Present Virtually

P Davies

Apologies for Absence

None.

Officers:

Carys Lord
Kelly Watson
Mark Shephard
Claire Marchant
Lindsay Harvey
Janine Nightingale
Lewis Pannell
Stephen Griffiths
Oscar Roberts

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

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Gebbie – Personal – Item 12 – As an LEA governor of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School

Cllr M Evans – Personal – Item 12 – As a Community Governor at Pencoed Comprehensive and Croesty Primary Schools

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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

Cllr N Farr – Personal – Item 12 – As an LEA governor of Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Cllr N Farr – Personal – Item 16 – Her husband is a taxi driver

Cllr J Spanswick – Personal – Item 16 – A taxi driver relative is mentioned in the report

Claire Marchant, Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing – Personal – Item 8 - Her son works at the Bridgend Resource Centre

452. Approval of Minutes

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| Decision Made | <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet dated 14 January 2025 and 4 February 2025 be approved as true and accurate records. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

453. Treasury Management Quarterly Report To 31 December 2024

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change, was to present Cabinet with the treasury management activities for 2024-25 and demonstrate compliance with codes of practice applicable to local government.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on the subjects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The amount of interest earned in the past nine months.• The Council's policy on the balance between risk and return.• Short-term borrowing for cashflow purposes. <p>These questions were addressed by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the treasury management activities for 2024-25 for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024.• Noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the period ending 31 December 2024 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25. |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |
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454. Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2025-26

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change, was to seek approval from Cabinet to adopt the Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2025-26, applying to various businesses as detailed in Appendix A.</p> <p>Cabinet posed a question on Council time and expense for offering the scheme. This question was addressed by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet adopted the Non-Domestic Rates Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2025-26 as detailed within Appendix A of the report, encouraging all eligible businesses to apply.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

455. Homelessness Temporary Accommodation

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change, was to seek approval from Cabinet to suspend relevant parts of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to continue the provision of additional temporary accommodation in order to meet the Council's statutory duties.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details within timings stated in the report.• The possibility of reduced need through the financial year.• Potential safeguarding concerns.• Upcoming developments that could help alleviate this need.• Upcoming exemptions to the revised Contract Procedure rules set to be approved.• Risk factors included within the report. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of active providers of housing. <p>These questions were addressed by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change and the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, with further information on individual housing provider numbers pledged to be provided in the future.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the contents of the report.• Agreed to suspend the relevant parts of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) with regards to the requirement to tender for a contract and delegate authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing to enter into Service Level Agreements with existing accommodation providers for a period of 'up to' 12 months in order to continue the provision of additional temporary accommodation as necessary to meet the Council's statutory duties.• Delegated authority to the Head of Partnerships and Housing to approve the final terms of the Service Level Agreements on behalf of the Council and to arrange execution of the agreements on behalf of the Council in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory, HR and Corporate Policy.• Noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet to update on the position regarding temporary accommodation. <p>Cabinet further thanked the Finance team for their work in reducing the Council's overspend.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

456. Social Services and Wellbeing Accommodation-Based Service Review

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, was to seek an endorsement from Cabinet to develop business cases along with proposals to potentially reshape existing accommodation-based care following reviews of the service across the authority, and to extend the existing Partnership Agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the Adult Placement Scheme for an additional five years on annual review.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health issues impacting on accommodation costs. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration with other organisations.• Details on discussions with Section 106 funding.• the underutilization of facilities at Bryn Y Cae. <p>These questions were addressed by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the contents of the report.• Approved the extension of the Adult Placement Scheme (Shared Lives) Service Partnership Agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for a 5-year period in accordance with the terms set out in the Agreement, subject to annual review pending an alternative or longer-term option being considered and developed.• Endorsed the development of detailed business cases in respect of the proposals set out in the Delivery Plan (Appendix A of the report refers), designed to define and reshape existing commissioned and internally delivered accommodation-based care provision for adults following an accommodation-based service review across Adult Social Care, noting that any proposals put forward for implementation will be reported back to Cabinet for approval, as required. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

457. Social Services and Wellbeing Daytime Opportunities Review and Remodelling

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, was to request endorsement from Cabinet for the proposed vision and principles for daytime opportunities for those with care and support needs as well as seek approval for those plans in progress.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health.• The cost per supported person.• Transport provided to users.• Cost breakdowns for different aspects of the service.• Thoughts on minimizing impact on individuals due to these changes. |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| | <p>These questions were answered by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change, acknowledging that mental health is subject to an upcoming review with internal and external Council partners. A breakdown in costings for the overall project was promised to be sent to Cabinet Members in the future.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the contents of this report and the vision and key principles proposed for daytime opportunities.• Approved the proposals and re-modelling plans as identified in this report following the detailed review of daytime opportunities across adult social care, noting that a full business case will be made before any operational changes. <p>Cabinet additionally thanked the team for all their hard work in gathering and preparing the information for this report and providing a thorough understanding of current and future practices. It was also noted that the Council continues to look for partnerships both internally and externally to help deliver for residents across Bridgend County.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

458. Health and Social Care Regional Memorandum of Understanding

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, was to seek approval from Cabinet for BCBC to sign onto a Health and Social Care Memorandum Of Understanding in principle that is currently being developed among BCBC and other authorities as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Cabinet posed a question on whether this MoU will allow for a better working relationship and partnership with other organisations, which was addressed by the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet agreed that BCBC will become a signatory to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health and social care MoU as set out in Appendix 1 of the report</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

459. Future Local School Improvement and Regional Professional Learning Arrangements

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People, was to update Cabinet on the future school improvement services taking place in Bridgend schools following previous reports and to seek their approval on a new proposed operating model as detailed in the report. Cabinet briefly clarified financial details of the report, and welcomed the changes to increase efficiencies</p> <p>Cabinet enquired whether service provisions can be maintained, which was addressed by the Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed that school improvement services will be delivered on a local basis, as outlined in the report.• Agreed that the proposed professional learning and curriculum support service, which will continue to be delivered on a regional basis, as outlined in section 3.6 to 3.9 of the report and that RCTCBC becomes the host for the arrangement.• Agreed that the governance arrangements for the proposed regional professional learning and curriculum support service should transfer to a collaboration arrangement as outlined in section 8 of the report.• Noted the financial position as detailed at section 8 of the report.• Provided the Corporate Director (Education, Early Years and Young People) with the delegated authority to implement the revised service models following approval of this report. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

460. School Modernisation Programme Coety Primary School, Four-Classroom Extension - Modification To The Implementation Date Of The Enlargement

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| Decision Made | The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People, was to seek Cabinet approval to modify the implementation date of Coety Primary School's enlargement to |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| | 1 September 2026. <u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet approved the modification of the implementation date of Coety Primary School's enlargement to 1 September 2026. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

461. Outcomes of ESTYN Inspections of Schools In Bridgend During Autumn Term 2024

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People, was to inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the Estyn core inspection visits during autumn term 2024 to various schools within Bridgend County Borough as detailed within the report.</p> <p>Cabinet posed a question about changes in Estyn inspections and reporting, which was addressed by the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years & Young People.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet noted the contents of the report.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

462. Revised Contract Procedure Rules

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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 seek approval for the revised Contract Procedure Rules to take effect from the 1st of April 2025, and to note their going to Council for approval of amendments.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation that the Council can handle the increased workload following the revisions.• The renewal and reviewing of the associated Procurement Strategy and details therein.• Promotion of the Procurement strategy.• Officer training to ensure compliance.• Transparency concerns around Procurement. |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| | <p>These questions were addressed by the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the revised Contract Procedure Rules attached at Appendix 1 to the report to take effect from 1st April 2025.• Approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to Executive functions as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report.• Noted that a report will be taken to Council regarding the required amendments to the Constitution and to seek approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to Council functions. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

463. Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes

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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 seek approval for items to be included on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 March 2025 to 31 August 2025 and for Cabinet to note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period.</p> <p>Cabinet posed a question on requirements to have six months of future reports, which was addressed by the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 March 2025 to 31 August 2025 at Appendix 1 of the report.• 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. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

464. Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): Retail and Commercial Development

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to seek Cabinet approval to consult on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Retail and Commercial Development as detailed in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The target audience for the consultation.• Definitions of terms used in the report.• The direction of travel for town centres in the County Borough.• Limiting the decline of retail.• Whether all SPGs can be made available for Cabinet scrutiny. <p>These questions were addressed by the Corporate Director – Communities and the Principal Strategic Planning Policy Officer.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the draft SPG for Retail and Commercial Development (at Appendix 1) as the basis for a public consultation for a minimum 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 | 11 March 2025 |

465. Joint Vehicle Maintenance (JVM) Service With South Wales Police

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| Decision Made | The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to provide an update |
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| | <p>to Cabinet in respect of the collaboration between Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and South Wales Police (SWP) in providing a joint fleet maintenance service and seek an extension of the term of this agreement.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The potential financial impact of taxis taking MOTs elsewhere.• Potential partnership with Bridgend College to offer apprenticeships.• The lack of financial implications included within the report. <p>These questions were addressed by the Corporate Director – Communities, indicating that these would be a decision for future reports alongside feedback from the Licensing Committee when they determine what they can do with the taxi regime.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended for a further 1 year term the arrangement with South Wales Police for the Joint Vehicle Maintenance service, to enable detailed dialogue and agreement for any future fixed terms to be agreed.• Delegated power to the Corporate Director - Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change and Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate for additions to the terms and conditions of the arrangement and duration of period of future fixed terms.• Agreed to receive a further report following the outcome of the discussions. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

466. Fleet Replacement Programme

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| Decision Made | <p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Director – Communities was to outline the proposed costs for the replacement of existing council fleet for inclusion in the Capital Programme, and to ask for a recommendation to Council to approve a budget for addressing these replacement costs.</p> <p>Cabinet posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether funding was for the current year's budget.• The reasoning behind the vehicles in need of maintenance. |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The timeline on vehicle replacement. <p>These questions were addressed by the Corporate Director – Communities.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet recommended to Council for approval that a capital budget of £1.2 million be included in the Capital Programme, to be funded from prudential borrowing, to enable the Fleet Replacement Programme to continue.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

467. Urgent Items

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| Decision Made | <u>RESOLVED:</u> There were no urgent items |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

468. Exclusion of the Public

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| Decision Made | <u>RESOLVED:</u> The following items are not for publication as they contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and/or Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007. Following the application of the public interest test the Sub1Committee resolved pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

469. Approval of Exempt Minutes

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| Decision Made | <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the exempt minutes of meetings of Cabinet dated 14 January 2025 and 4 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record. |
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 11 MARCH 2025

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| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |
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**470. Owners Agreement for Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration and
Porthcawl Pavilion Contract**

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| Decision Made | The decision on this item is exempt and therefore not open for publication. |
| Date Decision Made | 11 March 2025 |

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

The meeting closed at 17:54.