

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2025 AT 16:00**

**Present**

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

H T Bennett  
JPD Blundell  
C Davies  
N Farr  
H Griffiths  
M L Hughes  
M Jones  
RL Penhale-Thomas  
JH Tildesley MBE  
MJ Williams

A R Berrow  
E L P Caparros  
P Davies  
J Gebbie  
S J Griffiths  
D M Hughes  
W J Kendall  
J E Pratt  
A Wathan  
E D Winstanley

F D Bletsoe  
Clatworthy  
S Easterbrook  
W R Goode  
GH Haines  
P W Jenkins  
M Lewis  
JC Spanswick  
HM Williams  
T Wood

S J Bletsoe  
RJ Collins  
M J Evans  
RM Granville  
D T Harrison  
M R John  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins  
T Thomas  
I Williams

**Present Virtually**

S Aspey  
I M Spiller  
R Williams

N Clarke  
A Ulberini-Williams

C L C Davies  
G Walter

R J Smith  
AJ Williams

**Officers:**

Mark Galvin  
Lindsay Harvey  
Rachel Keepins  
Carys Lord  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale  
Michael Pitman  
Oscar Roberts

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  
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services

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

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Mark Shephard  
Kelly Watson  
Jonathan Parsons  
Richard Matthams  
Adam Provoost

Chief Executive  
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy  
Group Manager Planning and Development Services  
Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager  
Strategic Planning Policy Team Leader

**149. Apologies for absence**

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Ford and RM James
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**150. Declarations of Interest**

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Steven Bletsoe declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7. Councillor Bletsoe left the meeting whilst this report was being considered.</p> <p>Councillor Elaine Winstanley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9., as her employer was affected by some of the contents detailed within the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**151. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That the minutes of meetings of Council dated 2 April, 9 April and 14 May 2025, be approved as true and accurate records:-</p> <p>The Democratic Services Manager in relation to Minute no. of 14 May meeting, stated that having checked with the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, Councillor Simon Griffiths cannot now sit on this body as a member, nor was he able to sit on the Audit Sub-Committee. Therefore, it was noted that he has relinquished his membership on both and, at the time of writing, Councillor Graham Walter has been appointed instead on the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee.</p>
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Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**152. Presentation to Council by representatives of Valleys To Coast (V2C)**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented a report that introduced Jo Oak, Chief Executive Officer of Valleys to Coast alongside colleagues from the Senior Executive team, who gave a resume and summary of the work of the organisation in providing housing for residents within Bridgend County Borough.</p> <p>She advised that the presentation would give a summary of priorities and performance delivery for the previous financial year as well as looking forward towards the future. The presentation also outlined successes of the last year to include new levels of investment into homes and ensuring that investment is as impactful as possible. Complaint reduction has also been a priority through proactive service improvement and increasing employment to improve service delivery.</p> <p>Also included was a survey undertaken with residents about various service areas of Valleys to Coast, with eight areas showing a satisfaction improvement and four showing a reduction.</p> <p>Following Ms Oak's submission, the Mayor opened up questions, examples of which were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management of void properties.</li><li>• The effect of the Employment Rights Bill on V2C's workforce.</li><li>• Access to EV charging points.</li><li>• Details of V2C's homebuilding statistics.</li><li>• V2C's strategy on complex ASB or drug use/dealing cases.</li><li>• Expansion plans to cope with development progress and needs.</li></ul> <p>The questions and queries raised above (as well as any others) that Ms Oak and her colleagues could not sufficiently respond to, she confirmed that she would follow-up and respond to outside of the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That the report of the Chief Executive and the presentation by the Chief Executive of Valleys to Coast be noted.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

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**153. To receive announcements from:**

Decision Made	<p>Announcements were received from the following dignitaries (no decisions required or made):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor;</li><li>• Chief Executive</li></ul> <p>The Chief Executive wished to say a few words as this was his last meeting of Council, prior to him retiring from local government at the end of this month.</p> <p>He had been in BCBC and its predecessor authority Ogwr Borough Council for over 30 years during which team he and colleagues had faced some challenging times, not least of these being the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>He extended his thanks to fellow Officers he had worked with during his career in Bridgend and also thanked members including the Cabinet, the current Leader, the previous Leader (now Mayor) and the group Leaders of the Bridgend County Independents (BCI's) and Democratic Alliance (DA) for their support.</p> <p>The Leader, Group Leaders of the BCI's and DA and the Mayor in turn, extended their thanks to the Chief Executive for his contributions during his working career in Bridgend.</p>
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**154. To receive announcements by the Leader**

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (no decisions required or made).
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**155. Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance**

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

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document.</p> <p>The report also sought the approval of Council to adopt the final form Affordable Housing SPG (Appendix 1 of the report referred), in order to support the Affordable Housing Policies within the adopted Replacement Local Development Plan, March 2024 (RLDP).</p> <p>Paragraph 2.8 of the report provided updated and/or specific guidance on this category of SPG and the Corporate Director Communities alluded to this for the benefit of members.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader extended her thanks to officers for taking on board her previous query regarding affordable housing and the clarification given on this in planning terms.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Noted the contents of the Report and approved the Officer’s consultation responses to the representations received on the draft Affordable Housing SPG, together with resultant amendments set out in Appendix 2 of the report.</li> <li>(b) Adopted the final form Affordable Housing SPG (at Appendix 1) for immediate application in making development management decisions and in the determination of planning applications along with the adopted RLDP, subject to the provisions of Recommendations c) and d) of the report.</li> <li>(c) 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 publication of the adopted SPG; and</li> <li>(d) Further authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to undertake and publish annual updates to the Affordable Housing ‘transfer values,’ as detailed in ‘Appendix A’ of the final form Affordable Housing SPG.</li> </ul>
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**156. Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions**

Decision Made	<p>The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, in order to seek Council approval for a series of amendments to the Schemes of Delegation of Functions.</p> <p>More specifically, the changes were required to allow named Officers within the Communities Directorate the legal right to enter land as part of their duties. The list of named officers will be updated on an annual basis and will include Officers from Planning, Enforcement, Building Control, Building Conservation and Design, Highways, Countryside and Public Rights of Way sections.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.1 of the report, proposed that the delegated function given to the Corporate Director Communities at Scheme B2 paragraph 6.1(d) in relation to the issuing of written authorisation to appropriate officers to enable them to exercise powers of entry, be updated to include legislation as referred to in that section of the report.</p> <p>A member asked the following questions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In respect of paragraph 3.1 of the report, I acknowledge that Council officers would require delegated authority to enter into certain properties, particularly on occasions at short notice. He asked however why Section 106 of the Infrastructure Wales Act 2024 is referred to in this section of the report, ie is there something in that particular Act which relates to the entry of buildings?</li><li>• Is there a policy and/or process relating to the report in respect of officers entering dangerous buildings or buildings that contain within them hazardous substances, in accordance with health and safety regulations and is there also training for these officers and, for example, special equipment provided for them before entry?</li></ul> <p>These points were responded to in turn by the Group Manager Planning and Development Services, Corporate Director Communities and the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That Council:</p> <p>(1) Approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.</p> <p>(2) Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions where such amendment is required to be made, so as to comply with any legislative</p>
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	provision. Such amendments shall take effect when the Monitoring Officer decides or the legislation (where relevant), so provides.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**157. Revenue Budget Outturn 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report, the purpose of which, was to provide Council with an update on the Authority's revenue financial position for the year ended 31st March 2025.</p> <p>The report indicated a net underspend on the Council's budget for the 2024-25 financial year of approximately £300k. It was noted however that whilst this was positive news, it did mask some underlying budget pressures, as a result of the receipt of Welsh Government grants awarded late in the above year, towards the teachers' pay award and a further £2.024m to contribute towards revenue cost pressures.</p> <p>There were also further financial pressures including overspends from Directorate budgets, with continued pressures being experienced in the service areas of home to school transport, children's social care and additional learning needs.</p> <p>The Council had seen a £1.5m reduction in its overall insurance fund liability after a number of claims had been repudiated or discontinued, with additional council tax premiums on long-term empty properties and second homes having boosted council tax revenue by some £611k. If some of these premiums had not been collected however, the expected council tax income may have fallen short by some £99k.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change stated that the Council would have to continue to work hard in the coming financial year in order to maintain spending within allocated limits, highlighting a shortfall in targeted savings of just over £1.5m.</p> <p>A member stated that with budget pressures being felt across Wales, the Council should continue to lobby for multi-year funding settlements for local authorities, in order to allow them to better plan ahead and be able to have further opportunity to consider their financial commitments and obligations more longer term.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance advised that the report would be considered in more depth at a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 30 June 2025.</p>
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	Members asked a number of questions of officers, following which it was  <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the Revenue Outturn position for 2024-25.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**158. To receive the following Question from:**

Decision Made	Councillor Colin Davies to the Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services (response circulated previously to members).  A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Davies which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**159. To receive the following Question from:**

Decision Made	Councillor Martin Williams to the Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services (response circulated previously to members).  A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**160. To receive the following Question from:**

Decision Made	Councillor Tim Thomas to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response circulated previously to members).
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	A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Thomas which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**161. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell**

Decision Made	Members debated the Notice of Motion as detailed at Agenda item 13. on today's meeting agenda.		
	While members were generally in agreement with the motion aside of a small minority, Councillor Tim Thomas moved an additional paragraph to be added to the motion, as follows:-		
	<b>‘As soon as the Bill has been given Royal Assent and has the competency to be legislation in Wales, businesses are signposted to the relevant guidance in both a cost effective and by an appropriate method, to ensure that such businesses avoid any unnecessary sanctions.’</b>		
	This amendment was duly seconded.		
	Members therefore voted on the amendment on-line via the new Mod.Gov voting app., with a minority of members voting verbally. The total result of vote was as follows:-		
	<u>For (the amendment)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
	37	4	0
	Therefore, the amendment carried.		
	Members then voted by the same method as above, on the substantive motion, with the result being as follows:-		
	<u>For (the motion)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
37	2	0	
<u>RESOLVED:</u>		That the Motion as detailed on the meeting agenda (item 13) be approved by Council together with the additional wording to be	

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	added to this, as shown in bold print above.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**162. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Martin Williams**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Members agreed to defer this Notice of Motion to the next meeting of Council dated 23 July 2025.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**163. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

**164. Exclusion of the Public**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The minutes relating to the following item were not for publication as they contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 and 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 Council resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, therefore, the public were excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025

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**165. Approval of Exempt Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	That the exempt minutes of Council dated 2 April 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	25 June 2025	

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

The meeting closed at 19:15.