

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Mayor and Chairperson

H T Bennett
JPD Blundell
RJ Collins
M J Evans
RM Granville
P W Jenkins
JC Spanswick
HM Williams
T Wood
H Griffiths

A R Berrow
E L P Caparros
C Davies
N Farr
GC Haines
M Jones
T Thomas
I Williams
R Smith

F D Bletsoe
N Clarke
P Davies
J Gebbie
M L Hughes
W J Kendall
A Ulberini-Williams
MJ Williams

S J Bletsoe
O Clatworthy
S Easterbrook
W R Goode
D M Hughes
RL Penhale-Thomas
AJ Williams
E D Winstanley

Present Virtually

S Aspey
RM James
J E Pratt
R Williams

P Ford
M R John
I M Spiller

S J Griffiths
M Lewis
G Walter

D T Harrison
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
A Wathan

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Laura Griffiths
Lindsay Harvey
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Jake Morgan
Janine Nightingale

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

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Kelly Watson
Michael Pitman
Oscar Roberts

Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services

210. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Davies and Jefferson Tildesley
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

211. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	<p>The following declarations of interest were made:-</p> <p>Members declared a universal personal declaration of interest in Agenda item 13, as members of the LGPS.</p> <p>All Officers present at the meeting declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 13, as members of the LGPS, other than the Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees who remained in the meeting to take a note of proceedings on this item.</p> <p>Councillor E Winstanley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8 as it mentions premises that are under the ownership of her employer.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Legal, HR, Regulatory Services and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7 and left the meeting whilst this item was being considered.</p> <p>Councillor E Caparros declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13, as the motion had potential to impact partners, suppliers or customers of his employer. Whilst indirect, to avoid any potential issue he declared an interest.</p> <p>Councillor M Jones declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13.</p>
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	Councillor Amanda Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8, as she is Chair of Governors at Coity Primary School as a Community Council Governor.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

212. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 22 October 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

213. Presentation to Council by Mental Health Matters

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive and Leader presented a report that introduced Michaela Moore and Mark Williams of Mental Health Matters Wales, who in celebration of their 40th year providing mental health support to residents in Bridgend and beyond across the region gave a presentation outlining their services and summarising their work.</p> <p>The presentation went into detail on MHM's services offered across Bridgend and other services delivered across Wales, including a wide variety of community support and direct aid for those suffering from poor mental health, veterans and groups struggling to access community activities. Emphasis was given to the role of directly involving residents in the creation, naming and running of services offered to ensure that community needs and requirements are being appropriately met.</p> <p>The organisers also went into detail on future schemes including an effort to introduce an AI assistant to aid carers with questions around mental health that is ethically sourced and backed by trusted research, to be rolled out in the future pending further development.</p> <p>Following Ms Moore's and Mr Williams' submission, the Mayor opened up questions, examples of which were as follows:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information regarding integration with other connected services throughout the community.• Whether unused land owned by BCBC could be used by community groups or as allotments.• What therapeutic models are used to help with counselling clients.• How local residents can gain access to resources to aid with dementia and other common ailments.• Support for LGBTQIA+ parents.• The number of veterans and veteran's groups being supported in Bridgend County.• How Mental Health Matters Wales will implement the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Wales 2025-2035. <p>The questions and queries raised above (as well as others) that Ms Moore and Mr Williams could not sufficiently respond to, they confirmed that they would follow-up and respond to outside of the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That the report of the Leader and Chief Executive together with the presentation by representatives of Mental Health Matters, be noted.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

214. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor;• Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

215. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

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Date Decision Made	19 November 2025
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218. Treasury Management Half Year Report 2025-26

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to update Council on the treasury management activities and treasury management indicators for the half year ending 30 September 2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:-</p> <p>(1) Noted the treasury management activities for the half year ending 30 September 2025. (2) Noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26.</p>
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

219. Council Tax Base 2026-27

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to seek Council approval for the estimated council tax base and collection rate for 2026-27. This included approval of the individual tax bases for the town and community areas as detailed in Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>Members posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the current collection rate of 97.5% was realistic.• Potential risks to the Council were the current collection rate not to be maintained.• How Bridgend's collection rate compares both to the start of the current administrative term as well as compared to other local authorities.• Whether households at risk of not making payments are aware of potential help they can receive from BCBC. <p>These questions were addressed by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and the Chief</p>
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	Officer – Finance, Housing and Change. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the council tax base and collection rate for 2026-27 as shown in paragraph 3.1 of the report.• Approved the tax bases for the town and community areas set out in Appendix A to the report.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

220. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	Councillor Ian Williams to the Leader (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

221. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response circulated previously to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Penhale-Thomas which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

222. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Jane Gebbie

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Decision Made	<p>Members debated the Notice of Motion as detailed at Agenda item 13. on today's meeting agenda.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader, Councillor Jane Gebbie, gave a statement outlining a proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion following cross-party consultation, as follows:-</p> <p>"This Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BCBC employees are able to join the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund, which, as part of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP), manages over £3 billion on behalf of local government employees and retirees.2. That current investments include holdings in fossil fuel companies, arms manufacturers, and multinational corporations accused of contributing to human rights violations or environmental degradation.3. That Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds have a fiduciary duty to act in the best long-term interests of members, which includes managing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks.4. That numerous other public bodies, including city and county councils across the UK, have adopted Responsible Investment policies with stronger commitments to divest from harmful sectors and align with international human rights and climate goals.5. That the Wales Pension Partnership has adopted a Responsible Investment policy but currently allows fund managers significant discretion over ethical criteria and sector exclusions. <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Write to the RCT Pension Fund and the Wales Pension Partnership requesting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Greater transparency on current investments, including sector exposure (e.g. fossil fuels, arms, surveillance tech).• A strengthened Responsible Investment Policy with clear exclusion criteria for companies involved in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">§ Fossil fuel extraction§ Arms manufacturing or sales to regimes involved in war crimes as defined in international law§ Human rights abuses (e.g. violations of UN Global Compact principles)§ Environmental destruction or systemic deforestation2. Call on the Pension Committee and Local Pension Board to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Explore options to accelerate decarbonisation of the fund's portfolio in line with a 1.5°C climate target.o Engage with asset managers to develop a plan for phased divestment from the most harmful sectors, where consistent with fiduciary duty.o Ensure active member representation in future policy reviews concerning ethical or responsible
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	<p>investment.</p> <p>3. Support the development of a transparent Ethical Investment Charter for the fund, published annually, reporting on progress toward socially responsible and climate-aligned investments.</p> <p>4. Send this motion to the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), urging a coordinated LGPS-wide approach to ethical investment.</p> <p>5. This Council expresses concern over investments in companies from territories subject to international sanction and urges fund managers to align holdings with international humanitarian and human rights law.”</p> <p>Members outlined their thoughts on the amended Motion, indicating a general agreement aside from a minority, who were against aspects of the submission and requesting further clarity in what investments should be restricted, as referenced to in the motion.</p> <p>An electronic vote was then conducted on the amended Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-</p> <table><thead><tr><th><u>For (the motion)</u></th><th><u>Against</u></th><th><u>Abstentions</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>30</td><td>1</td><td>12</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That the amended Notice of Motion put forward by the Deputy Leader as announced verbally out at the meeting, be supported.</p>	<u>For (the motion)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	30	1	12
<u>For (the motion)</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>					
30	1	12					
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025						

223. Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Rhys Goode

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That this Notion of Motion as was detailed on the meeting agenda, be supported.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

224. Urgent Items

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Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

225. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The report relating to the following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 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, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

226. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the exempt minutes of a meeting of Council dated 22 October 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

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

The meeting closed at 19:30.

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