

CABINET - TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS. ON TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2026 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

J Gebbie
M Jones

HM Williams
GC Haines

E L P Caparros

M J Evans

Present Virtually

N Farr

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Nimi Chandrasena
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Michael Pitman
Gaynor Thomas
Raeanna Grainger

Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer - Support
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
School Programme Manager
Group Manager, IAA & Safeguarding

575. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

576. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

577. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 16/12/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

578. Children's Residential Home

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which asked Cabinet to approve a capital budget of £1,620,450 for the acquisition and refurbishment of a children's residential home to be initially funded from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources. The initiative aimed to provide high quality, in-county provision for children with complex needs, reducing the reliance on costly and distant out-of-county placements.</p> <p>A Member asked about the recruitment strategy for specialized staff required for such complex care. The Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that a robust recruitment and retention package was in place, emphasizing that being an employer of choice in the social care sector was a</p>
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	<p>priority to ensure the home was fully staffed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agreed that a report be presented to Council for approval of a capital budget of £1,620,450 to be included in the Council's Capital Programme for the acquisition and refurbishment of a children's residential home to be initially funded from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, on the assumption that some or all of the costs were recovered via the Welsh Government Housing with Care Fund, and;• noted the risks associated with Welsh Government approval and, subject to Council approval, supported proceeding "at risk" with the acquisition to meet the 2025/26 timeline, with refurbishment planned for 2026/27.
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

579. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2024/2025

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented the annual report on Corporate Safeguarding which updated Cabinet on the council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and adults. He noted a high level of compliance with mandatory safeguarding training across the workforce but identified areas for further improvement in contractor monitoring. The full report was attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>A member questioned how the council ensures that third-party contractors adhere to the same rigorous safeguarding standards as internal staff. The Chief Executive explained that safeguarding clauses are standard in all council contracts, and procurement teams have increased their audit frequency to verify compliance.</p>
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	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet approved the 2024/25 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

**580. School Modernisation Programme Replacement Heronsbridge School -
Modification to school opening**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member Education and Youth Services presented a report which sought approval to modify the opening date of the replacement Heronsbridge School to the start of the Autumn term 2028.</p> <p>He explained that delays were caused by increased costs and the complexities of appointing a design and build contractor however Kier Construction had now progressed the design and programme. The revised date has been agreed upon by the headteacher, the governing body, and Welsh Government officials.</p> <p>The following questions were posed by Cabinet Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were families and carers are being kept informed of the changes.• Did the revised timeline allows sufficient time for the school to manage the transition. <p>Responses were provided by the Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet approved the modification of the opening date of the replacement Heronsbridge School to the beginning of the autumn term 2028.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

581. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance presented a report which outlined the MTFS and revenue budget for consultation.</p> <p>He advised that the Council received a late announcement of additional funding from the Welsh Government, which improves the financial position. A proposed uplift of £4 million for education. There will be no 1% cut for education this year or next year, responding to concerns from school governors. He advised that the reserves were currently just under the recommended 5% target.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <p>Additional funding was welcomed but the public were encouraged to participate in the budget consultation, which was currently open.</p> <p>The Leader reiterated the commitment to not cutting the school budgets. The improved settlement will help towards public spaces and highway safety.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet submits for consultation the 2026-27 annual budget and development of the MTFS 2026-27 to 2029-30, as set out in the report, prior to presenting a final version for approval by Council on February 25, 2026.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

582. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

583. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, 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 Cabinet 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	13 January 2026

584. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 16/12/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	13 January 2026

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

The meeting closed at 15:20