

CABINET - TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 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, 3 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Leader and Chairperson

E L P Caparros

J Gebbie

N Farr

G Haines

M Jones

H Williams

M Evans

Officers:

Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Technical
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director – Communities for Learning
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Family Support
Gaynor Thomas	Manager, Sustainable Communities for Learning
Adam Provoost	Strategic Planning Transportation Manager
Jack Dangerfield	Senior Strategic Planning Policy Officer
Robin Davies	Group Manager, Strategy Performance and Support
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Invitees:

Councillor JP Blundell
Councillor A Ulberini-Williams

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

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585. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

586. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	Cllr Neelo Farr declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10, due to her living opposite the new Porthcawl Seedling School Cllr Hywel Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12, as a Governor at Abercerdin Primary School.
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

587. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 13/01/2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

588. Scrutiny Recommendation from Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Decision Made	The Chairperson of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented a report, the purpose of which report is to present Cabinet with the recommendation of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee from their meeting held on 3 November 2025, during consideration of a report on the Net Zero Strategy.
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	<p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation:</p> <p>He advised that the Committee expressed concern regarding the unlikelihood of meeting the 2030 Net Zero target given the funding for the identified cost of £109.65 million for implementation that would be needed and recommended that Cabinet reconsider its commitment to the 2030 target and request the Welsh Government (WG) to review their target for Net Zero and provide guidance on how to proceed.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered the recommendation of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and confirmed that they would respond to this, in due course.</p>
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

589. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30 and Draft Budget Consultation Process

Decision Made	<p>The Chairperson of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented a report, The purpose of which was to present Cabinet with the findings and recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), as the Scrutiny Committee with overall responsibility for budget scrutiny, in relation to the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the proposed budget pressures and budget reduction proposals the proposals for spending the additional funding announced by Welsh Government.</p> <p>He reminded Cabinet, that at a meeting of COSC on 27 January 2026, members considered the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30, which set out the spending priorities of the Council, key investment objectives and budget areas targeted for necessary savings which included a financial forecast for 2026-2030, a detailed draft revenue budget for 2026-27, the proposals for spending the additional funding announced by Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Committee subsequently agreed Recommendations to submit to Cabinet, as part of the budget consultation process 2026-27 and a table of the Recommendations were attached at Appendix A to the report for Cabinet's response.</p>
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	<p>The Chairperson of COSC gave a resume of these for the benefit of those present at the meeting.</p> <p>The Leader and Cabinet member - Finance and Performance welcomed the feedback from COSC and thanked all those members (and Officers) that had been involved in this coming year's budget considerations.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered and confirmed it would respond to the Recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30.</p>
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

590. Shared Lives Scheme

Decision Made	<p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing presented a report, seeking Cabinet approval to commence consultation regarding proposed changes to the Shared Lives (Adult Placement) Scheme in Bridgend. The service is currently run by the Vale of Glamorgan Council through a Partnership Agreement, where there were currently 16 individuals in long-term placements, and 13 Shared Lives households (either single or couple carers).</p> <p>She advised that in March 2025, Cabinet approved continuation of this partnership for a term of 5 years subject to annual review. The proposal is for all individuals and self-employed carers within the scheme to move into a banded payment system in order to make this a fairer system for all involved.</p> <p>Consultation would be undertaken to ensure the views of those affected can be considered, with the consultation proposed running in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Council as BCBC's operational partner.</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council is also seeking similar consultation, she concluded.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would there be a risk of some foster carers leaving their positions, should they be placed on a lower graded salary band?
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	<p>Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government and asked if Cabinet could have sight of this, to which the Corporate Director Communities confirmed that they could.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Communities added that there would be a Member Briefing arranged when the Fund was launched, in order that the process regarding funding avenues could be explained to members, in order that they could share this with their community groups, including how to apply for funding in-keeping with the qualifying criteria for this. She added that the funding of £3m had to be fully spent by 31 March 2027, so expressions of interest and applications for an allocation of the funding, were being sought before a deadline date of 8 April 2026.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Communities further added that there would be a full Communications campaign carried out, to advertise the fund. The funding could be spent anywhere in the county borough, providing that it delivers against one or more of the fund objectives as outlined in paragraph 2.5 of the report.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Noted the contents of this report, considering the allocation of funds provided by the UK Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund and the opportunities it presents.2. Endorsed the proposed delivery of the Pride in Place Impact Fund in Bridgend County Borough as set out in section 3 of the report.3. Delegated authority to the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, Corporate Policy and HR and Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to finalise the programme and delivery mechanisms including the establishment of a capital grant scheme.
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

593. School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 and Co-ordinated Admissions

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

Arrangements 2028-2029

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report presented by the Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services, was to seek Cabinet approval for the School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 (see Appendix A to the report) and to advise Cabinet that the previously approved and adopted Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2027-2028 have be adopted without change for 2028-2029.</p> <p>The admission of pupils is a statutory responsibility, which supports the raising of educational standards and the well-being of children, young people and their local communities.</p> <p>The applicable legislation requires that the school admission arrangements for 2027-2028 are determined by 15 April 2026 and that the local authority formulates and adopts Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements annually.</p> <p>A member asked how often the Welsh Language Impact Assessment was reviewed, to which the Group Manager, Strategy Performance and Support advised that this was undertaken on an annual basis, in conjunction with the approval of the School Admissions Policy.</p> <p>The member also noted that there was a gap in the welsh language skills of Bridgend’s population when compared to other areas of Wales, of 9.2%. She asked therefore, what plans were in place to improve this statistic.</p> <p>The Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Family Support confirmed that this objective was an area that was being aimed for improvement in both the 10-year statutory Welsh Education Strategic Plan as well as in the 2019 Local Authority Inspection Report.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 (at Appendix A). and;2. Acknowledged the adoption of the Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2028-2029 (Appendix B).
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

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594. School Modernisation Programme: Porthcawl Welsh Medium Seedling School and Childcare

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet member – Education and Youth Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to seek Cabinet approval to invite tenders for the Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School and Childcare scheme, with the award of contract subject to the Council obtaining Welsh Government funding approval for the childcare element of the scheme (with the contract award not taking place until funding is confirmed and planning approval granted).</p> <p>The Leader noted that the project was to be fully funded by Welsh Government, he asked however, if there was a proposed opening date that had yet been established for the new school.</p> <p>The Manager, Sustainable Learning for Communities advised that the school opening date had initially been planned for September 2026, but this has now been delayed due to planning permission for the school still being awaited as well as a delay also to the childcare element of the scheme.</p> <p>A member asked how many FTE staff there will be at the school.</p> <p>The Manager, Sustainable Learning for Communities confirmed that this was presently being reviewed by the Schools Governing body.</p> <p>It was noted that when the new school opened, then children in the Porthcawl area would no longer have to travel to Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger school in North Cornelly for welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked what the cost would be in terms of slippage for the scheme.</p> <p>The Manager, Sustainable Learning for Communities advised that she would look into a suitable response for this question and come back to the member outside of the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet gave approval to invite tenders for the Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School and childcare scheme, with the award of contract subject to the Council obtaining Welsh Government funding approval for the childcare element of the scheme.</p>
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Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

595. Budget Monitoring 2025-2026 - Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet member – Finance and Performance presented a report in order to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council’s revenue financial position as at 31st December 2025.</p> <p>The report confirmed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The net revenue budget for 2025-26 is £383.226 million.• The overall projected year end position at 31st December 2025 is a net under spend of £9.256 million (2.4% of the net revenue budget).• There is a projected under spend of £8.652 million on Council wide budgets. This primarily relates to additional interest anticipated from current investments (£1.599 million) and savings on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges following the change in policy on the calculation of MRP (£1.004 million), additional grant from Welsh Government towards the teachers’ pay award 2025-26 along with the confirmed National Joint Council (NJC) pay awards being lower than provided for.• There continues to be an underlying pressures on directorate budgets primarily within Inclusion Services, Children’s Services and the Chief Executive’s Directorate.• The budget approved for 2025-26 included budget reduction proposals totalling £8.379 million. The current position is a projected shortfall on the savings target of £973,000, or 10.81% of the overall reduction target. <p>Cabinet noted the positive elements of the Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast as detailed in the report’s narrative.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the projected revenue position for 2025-26.</p>
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

596. Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2025-26

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Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet member – Finance and Performance advised that Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators.</p> <p>The report provided:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an update on the quarter 3 spend and projected spend for 2025-26 as at 31 December 2025, the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26.• Appendix A to the report reflected the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 31 December 2025 for the individual schemes in 2025-26.• Appendix B showed the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35, and• Appendix C provided details of the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26. <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the Council’s Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2025 (at Appendix A to the report)• Agreed that the revised Capital Programme (Appendix B) be submitted to Council for approval.• Noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected indicators for 2025-26 (Appendix C).
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

597. Forward Work Programmes - Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report, in order to seek Cabinet approval for items to be included on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 March 2026 to 31 August 2026 and for Cabinet to note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny
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Date Decision Made	3 February 2026
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600. Bridgend Town Centre Strategic Property Acquisition

Decision Made	This item was exempt and not for publication
Date Decision Made	3 February 2026

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