

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 17 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, 17 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 14:30**

Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

N Farr  
M Jones

HM Williams  
GC Haines

E L P Caparros

M J Evans

Present Virtually

JC Spanswick

Officers:

Jake Morgan  
Oscar Roberts  
Carys Lord  
Janine Nightingale  
Lindsay Harvey  
Laura Griffiths  
Michael Pitman  
Kelvin Barlow

Chief Executive  
Democratic Services Officer - Committees  
Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation  
Corporate Director - Communities  
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People  
Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services  
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services  
Head of Adult Social Care

**601. Apologies for Absence**

Decision Made	Apologies were received from the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**602. Declarations of Interest**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**603. Outcome of the Consultation 'Time To Talk Budget' 2026**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member Resources presented a report on the outcome of the consultation held in January 2026.</p> <p>She explained that there was a total of 1,216 responses to the consultation and the process included social media outreach, citizen panel focus groups, and a post-16 learner challenge day.</p> <p>The Leader highlighted that 50% of respondents felt the council was not effective at being citizen-focused and suggested that engagement should happen year round rather than just at budget time</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation as detailed in the attached consultation report.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**604. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented the MTFs to Cabinet Members including a financial forecast for 2026-30, a detailed revenue budget for 2026-27 and a Capital Programme for 2025-26 to 2035-36 to submit to Council for approval. The budget prioritized Education and Social Services ensuring these services were protected.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader noted that this was the most positive settlement in over a decade, moving the council from crisis management towards stability.</p>
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**CABINET - TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

	<p>The Leader highlighted an error in the Equality Impact Assessment regarding whether work would be carried out by contractors; The Chief Officer Finance and Performance agreed to address this before the full Council meeting.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources noted that public feedback led to a reduction in the proposed council tax increase from 4.9% to 4.7%</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>That Cabinet recommended the MTFS 2026-27 to 2029-30, including the 2026- 27 revenue budget and the Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2035-36, to Council for approval. Cabinet also recommended that the following specific elements are forwarded to Council for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MTFS 2026-27 to 2029-30 (Annex 3, with Appendices A to I).</li><li>• The Net Budget Requirement of £408,148,969 in 2026-27.</li><li>• A Band D Council Tax for Bridgend County Borough Council of £2,007.06 for 2026-27 (Table 17 of the MTFS).</li><li>• The 2026-27 budgets as allocated in accordance with Table 10 in paragraph 4.1.3 of the MTFS.</li><li>• The budget pressures outlined in Appendix C for 2026-27 to 2029-30.</li><li>• The budget reductions outlined in Appendix D for 2026-27 to 2029-30.</li><li>• The Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2035-36, attached at Appendix G of the MTFS.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**605. Capital Strategy 2026-27 To 2035-36**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented the Capital Strategy for 2026-27 to 2035-26. The Strategy included the Prudential Indicators against which the Council measures itself during the financial year and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2026-27. The strategy outlined a planned capital expenditure of £121.8 million for the 2026-27 period. Major projects included school refurbishments, the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, and disabled facilities grants.</p> <p>The Leader highlighted investments of £1.5 million for community sports facilities and £7.5 million over two years for highway refurbishment which exceed previous investment targets.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Climate Change &amp; the Environment addressed the public's concerns regarding council debt, clarifying that all borrowing is prudential meaning it must be affordable, sustainable, and only used for long-term assets like schools. The Council had a positive history of this which was also supported by the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered the report and recommended that the Capital Strategy 2026-27 to 2035-36, including the Prudential Indicators 2026-27 to 2035-36 and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2026-27 at Appendix A be presented to Council for approval.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**606. Treasury Management Strategy 2026-27**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Finance and Performance presented a report on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026-27.</p> <p>The Strategy outlined the managing of the Council's borrowing, investments, and cash flows. As of December 2025, the council held £95.6 million in borrowing and £56 million in investments. As the Cabinet Member alluded to earlier, the Council only borrowed when it was affordable to do so, sustainable and only used for long-term assets. BCBC's borrowing was also the lowest per head in the region.</p>
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**CABINET - TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

	<p>The Chief Executive added that borrowing money was never for the day to day running of the Council and its services, but rather for long term investments like new schools.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026-27 (Appendix A) and recommended that the Treasury Management Strategy be presented to Council for approval on 25 February 2026.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

**607. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

The meeting closed at 15:15

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