

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2026 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

M L Hughes

E D Winstanley

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe

N Clarke

H Griffiths

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

RL Penhale-Thomas

T Thomas

AJ Williams

MJ Williams

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing due to prior other Council business

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick

Leader

Councillor Hywel Williams

Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Councillor Martyn Jones

Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services

Councillor Eugene Caparros

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment (Job Share)

Councillor Gary Haines

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment (Job Share)

Councillor Melanie Evans

Cabinet Member for Resources

Councillor Neelo Farr

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Jake Morgan

Chief Executive

Carys Lord

Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation

Lindsay Harvey

Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People

Janine Nightingale

Corporate Director - Communities

Kelly Watson

Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

Kate Pask

Corporate Performance Manager

David Wright

Deputy Head of Children and Family Services

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Officers:

Meryl Lawrence
Jessica Mclellan

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer

Declarations of Interest

Councillor AJ Williams – Item 4 – Personal – Chair of Governors at Coety Primary School

187. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 27 January 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

188. Corporate Performance Quarter 3 2025-2026-27

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations 1. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to including more timescales in the narratives in the Performance Dashboards, in particular for the following: a. WBO 1.6.6 <i>Develop the Healthy Living Partnership Strategy</i> – timescale for securing feasibility funding; b. WBO 2.3.1 – timescale/milestones to <i>Approve and implement the new digital strategy</i> ; and c. WBO 3.4 – timescale for each of the projects under <i>Modernise School Buildings</i>
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2. The Committee **recommended** that consideration be given to amending the wording of WBO 2.1.4 from '*Improve the way we handle and learn from corporate complaints and compliments*' to include improving the process relating to complaints.
3. In relation to homelessness, the Committee discussed that sometimes, although the Council meets its legal duty to people presenting as homeless, e.g. through providing temporary accommodation, their particular housing need is not always met and given the number of new homes being built in the County, the need for a percentage to be appropriate for people's needs. The Committee therefore **recommended** that consideration be given to reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's interventions in relation to homelessness are measured in a citizen focussed way and how the Council is working with Registered Social Landlords and the private sector to ensure a range of suitable accommodation to address homelessness in the short, medium and long term
4. The Committee expressed concern regarding the statement in WBO 4.5.2 that the Service's three-year growth proposal '*is still awaiting feedback from the Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services*' and **recommended** that the narrative be updated as soon as possible in the Performance Dashboard.
5. The Committee discussed the *Sickness Absence by Reason* table in the Performance Dashboard and **recommended** that last year's figures are also included in this table in order to demonstrate whether levels have improved and the overall direction of travel.
6. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to including Estyn Inspection Outcomes on the Regulatory Tracker.

Additional Information Requested

7. The Committee discussed the measure, '*higher/lower preferred*' and **requested** a note setting out its use and how it is used when commitments/Pis are on or above target.
8. With reference to WBO 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 relating to Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger, Afon Y Felin and Corneli Primary School, the Committee **requested** confirmation that the necessary paperwork for the land swap with Valleys to Coast had been signed and the likely timescales for the construction contract to be awarded.
9. The Committee discussed WBO 3.2 and **requested** details of the support for schools to address

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	<p>issues relating to behaviour and attendance, to aim to achieve the targets and that further detail is also included in the narrative on the Performance Dashboard.</p> <p>10. The Committee requested that the upcoming briefing referred to by the Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services regarding the school modernisation programme includes detailed updates on each school modernisation and upgrade project.</p> <p>11. The Committee expressed concern regarding the statement in WBO 4.3 that '<i>more people are being made homeless from hospital requiring specially adapted accommodation</i>' and requested the number of cases falling into this category and what measures have been considered to address this issue, e.g. possible step-down care or use of existing residential or nursing homes on a temporary basis.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

189. Budget Monitoring 2025-26 - Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following requests for additional information:</p> <p>Additional Information Requested</p> <p>12. The Committee expressed concern regarding the significant projected year end underspend and requested an indication from Cabinet of their strategic priorities for use of any budget surplus after closure of the accounts and that any potential known significant under or overspends are reported to the Scrutiny Budget Working Group to improve transparency and to ensure that it adds further value to the budget setting process.</p> <p>13. The Committee expressed concern regarding the underspend in 8 out of 11 Service Areas in Adult Social Care and requested confirmation that the efficiencies are not having an adverse effect on service users.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

190. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Nomination

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee nominated Cllr Elaine Winstanley as the Labour Group Member and Cllr Martin Williams to replace the substitute Bridgend County Independents Group Member to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2025-26.
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

191. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following request, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendices C, D and E. 1. The Committee discussed the list of Reports to be scheduled and requested that these be scheduled as soon as possible.
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

192. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	16 March 2026

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

The meeting closed at 12:39.

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