

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 29 JUNE 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, 29 JUNE 2026 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

E D Winstanley

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe
M L Hughes
MJ Williams

N Clarke
RL Penhale-Thomas

H Griffiths
T Thomas

S J Griffiths
AJ Williams

Apologies for Absence

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Hywel Williams
Councillor Martyn Jones
Councillor Eugene Caparros
Councillor Melanie Jayne Evans
Councillor Colin Davies

Leader
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation
Cabinet Member for Education and Young People
Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Jake Morgan
Carys Lord
Lindsay Harvey
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson

Chief Executive
Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation
Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director – Communities
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

Sophie Moore
Ady Heyhoe
Martin Morgans

Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing
Community Development Coordinator
Head of Public Realm

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

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Jonathan Parsons
Rachel Keepins

Group Manager – Planning and Development Services
Democratic Services Manager

Officers

Jessica Mclellan
Stephen Griffiths

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Declaration of Interest

Cllr F D Bletsoe – Personal - Item 4 – Governor at a Special Educational Needs School

193. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 16 March 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

194. Revenue Budget Outturn 2025-2026

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations 1. Members discussed schools projecting deficit budgets and individual school deficit recovery plans, expressed concern regarding addressing the deficits individually and recommended that consideration be given to managing and dealing with the deficits as a single debt and to setting up a task force or project to clear it. 2. The Committee were advised of the interconnectivity between all Council Directorate budgets and recommended that consideration be given to adding a section to future budget reports to include an all Council-contextual overview before detailing individual Directorate positions.
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	Additional Information Requested 3. Members requested a breakdown of the value for each anonymised schools' projected deficit or surplus budget and that consideration be given to including this information in future Budget reports. 4. The Committee were advised that the Committees Directorate are implementing a new Integrated Work Management System and requested that Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider requesting a report regarding the new system. 5. The Committee discussed the ongoing review of the Council's Cemeteries Strategy and requested that consideration be given to exploring: a. whether cemeteries should be considered by a Joint Committee building on the success of Coychurch Crematorium; and b. alternative burials such as natural and hydro given that cemetery space is limited. 6. The Committee discussed the cessation of the Council's Pest Control Service and requested information regarding the number of complaints regarding pests since October 2025, set out by Ward if possible. 7. The Committee discussed the shortfall on Department for Work and Pensions' subsidy contributions towards housing benefit payments and requested more information regarding the number of cases supported, detail and impact of those costs and the number of any legacy cases which may be having an impact. 8. The Committee discussed the grant funding received by the Service to assist refugees and those seeking asylum and requested: a. the level of grants received in previous years, and the level anticipated to continue in future years; b. an update on outcomes achieved from the grant funding received and the numbers being supported by the Authority, set out by Ward if possible; and c. an all-Member briefing regarding the support offered by the Service.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

195. Age Friendly Baseline

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation: 9. The Committee recommends that the reference to work being undertaken with the following be included in the Age Friendly Bridgend Baseline Assessment: a. Transport for Wales; and b. Faith-based organisations including Churches, Mosque and Hindu Temple.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

196. Play Sufficiency

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation: 10. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to better signposting to parents and carers of play opportunities in their local areas including better communication via the Council's website and social media.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

197. Scrutiny Budget Working Group

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report the Committee noted the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1, agreed the proposed amendment to the Scrutiny Budget Working Group (SBWG) process in Appendix 2 and the Proposed Amended Structure of SBWG and Draft outline of schedule of meetings in Appendix 3.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

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

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee nominated the following Members to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee: • Councillors Huw David, Simon Griffiths and Elaine Winstanley (nominations from the Labour Group); • Councillor Tim Thomas (nomination from the Bridgend County Independents Group); and • Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas (nomination from the Democratic Alliance Group).
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

199. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Councillor Tim Thomas be nominated to represent the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

200. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following addition, 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: a. The Council's response to major incidents and events to include how information is communicated to Members and residents; and b. A quarterly progress update on the Council's Transformation agenda commencing October 2026.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

201. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	29 June 2026

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

The meeting closed at 13:57.