

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H T Bennett – Chairperson

S Aspey	A R Berrow	F D Bletsoe	S J Bletsoe
JPD Blundell	E L P Caparros	N Clarke	O Clatworthy
RJ Collins	HJ David	C Davies	C L C Davies
P Davies	S Easterbrook	M J Evans	N Farr
P Ford	J Gebbie	W R Goode	RM Granville
H Griffiths	GC Haines	D T Harrison	M L Hughes
D M Hughes	RM James	P W Jenkins	M R John
M Jones	W J Kendall	M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins
J E Pratt	R J Smith	JC Spanswick	I M Spiller
T Thomas	A Ulberini-Williams	G Walter	A Wathan
AJ Williams	HM Williams	I Williams	MJ Williams
R Williams	E D Winstanley	T Wood	

Officers:

Stacey Forde	Head of Performance and Workforce Cultural Change
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Martin Morgans	Interim Head of Operations - Community Services
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Adam Provoost	Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager
Anya Richards	Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs
Daniel Taylor	Head of Transformation and Digital
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services

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David Wright

Deputy Head of Children and Family Services

309. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from the following members:- Councillors R Penhale-Thomas and S Griffiths
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

310. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were made:- Councillor T Thomas declared a personal interest in item 8, personal interest due to his employer having been advisors as Property Agents. Councillor Amanda Williams declared a personal interest in item 11. (1), personal interest as a member of Llais. Councillor R Goode declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 (1), prejudicial interest as a member of the CTM Health Board. Councillor Goode left the meeting whilst this item was being considered.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

311. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 22 July 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to it being noted that Cllr Aspey was in attendance at this meeting.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

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312. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	The Mayor and the Chief Executive gave their announcements.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

313. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	The Leader gave his announcements.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

314. Social Services Annual Report 2025-26

Decision Made	The Social Services Annual Report 2025-26 presented by the Corporate Director Social Services, Health and Wellbeing she advised, was a statutory requirement providing the Council, the people of Bridgend County Borough, regulators and partners with an overview of the effectiveness of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate during the past year. The report reflected on 2025-26, highlighting achievements and challenges whilst outlining priorities for 2026-27. This is the second report prepared under the revised Welsh Government guidance, with performance assessed across the four themes of People, Prevention, Partnership and Integration, and Well-being. As well as the performance assessment section of the report, it included a Director's Summary, information on leadership, workforce, resources, inspections and reviews, and complaints and representations. The Corporate Director Social Services, Health and Wellbeing gave a resume of these and other elements of the report as part of her presentation. The report was informed by feedback from people who use services, helping to ensure that performance is evaluated through the experiences of those who access and deliver services. The report also highlighted key achievements during 2025-26, including workforce stability, positive service
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	performance, strengthened early intervention and preventative support, increased local placement capacity for children, further development of community-based support for adults, and continued improvements in safeguarding arrangements. It also identified key risks and financial pressures, including increasing demand and complexity of need, workforce sustainability, placement sufficiency, and the long-term financial sustainability of social care services. • The Leader noted that on pages 26, 27 and 30 of the report there were excellent and easy reading summaries of some of the key work carried out in Social Services and he felt that it would be beneficial if this could be made available to the public somehow, save them looking for key information in the Annual Report as a whole. • A Member stated that given the levels of unpaid care and the reliance upon this, he noted that 17,000 people provided this type of care, but with only 2,100 of these carers having been identified. He asked what strategy is in place to identify the remaining unpaid carers and how long would it take for this to be achieved. • A Member noted from page 30 of the report that over the year there had been a 64% decrease in young carers assessments, with seemingly this due to the demand in Adult Social Services putting pressure on the Directorates workforce and budget. He therefore asked, what was being done to address this. Officers responded to the above points in turn. The Leader, Deputy Leader and other Members in turn, commended the report. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the 2025-26 Social Services Annual Report appended to the cover report.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

315. Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2026-27

Decision Made	This report presented by the Cabinet Member Corporate Services outlined the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan (CPDP) for 2026-27. The CPDP 2026-27 reflected a transitional year; one that sought to deliver business as usual, whilst offering an incremental level of refocus and rationalisation of Corporate Performance measures (Phase 1).
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She confirmed that more strategically, from September 2026, the efforts, deployment and optimisation of Corporate Performance resources would be prioritised for the design and delivery of Phase 2, of the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Corporate Performance improvement approach. Of note, Phase 2 was a 'redesign'; offering a step-change from the existing framework and also shifting from 'Reporting' to 'Actionable Insights and Intelligence'.

The proposed, transitional CPDP 2026-27:

- Builds on recommendations set out by the Panel Performance Assessment (PPA) 2025.
- Provided a balanced approach in meeting the aims of the Corporate Plan 2023-28, whilst transitioning and paving the way for new ways of working and transformational developments for 2027 and beyond.
- Offers a suite of refreshed and rationalised performance goals (Appendix 1 of the report referred)
- Comprised of 23 Aims; underpinned by 58 Commitments and 53 Performance Indicators (PIs).
- Achieves a 11.90% rationalisation in the number of Corporate Commitments and Performance Indicators from 126 (2025-26) to 111 (2026-27).

Members made a number of points on the report, including:-

1. It was pleasing to see a good alignment between the two face framework and the Transformation Strategy, though by reducing the number of corporate commitments and PI information, there needed to be a clearer directive as to which of these had been removed, which ones had remained and the reasons why for both. There also had to be further clarification if the 2027 targets etc were realistic, too ambitious, or needed adding to, in comparison with the previous years annual performance.
2. On page 113 of the agenda pack, Reference to WB02.3, there was information regarding 12 monthly sickness absence for full-time equivalent staff being at 13.48 days. This was high when compared with the average loss across Wales being 5.8 days, which in itself was considered quite high. Something should be put in place in order to seek to reduce this.
3. On page 112 of the pack, Reference PAM 21 and 22, there were details regarding all principle A, B & C roads, generally being in a less than satisfactory condition due to under investment for improvement works. Further investment was therefore needed in the highway network across the

	County Borough in the future. 4. Consideration should be given for a PI to be introduced for BCBC staff to respond to correspondence from the public in a reasonable and/or timely manner? <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council considered and agreed the Corporate Plan Development Plan for 2026-27 attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

316. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): Educational Facilities and Residential Development

Decision Made	The purpose of this report presented by the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Housing, was to provide Council with an overview of the public consultation exercise on the draft Educational Facilities and Residential Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document. The report also sought Council approval to adopt the final form Educational Facilities and Residential Development SPG. Adoption of the SPG would support the effective implementation of the existing planning policy framework contained within the Replacement Local Development Plan adopted March 2024 (RLDP), which was the Council's statutory land-use Planning document. Members posed a few questions on this item, as follows:- • This matter was discussed in some detail at the last meeting of the Development Control Committee (DCC). It was noted that only one response was received to the SPG consultation. The Planning Department and possibly the DCC, need to look at ways in the future to put increase protocols in place, so as to encourage the public engaging on various SPG's, particularly within the consultation period for the submission of any representations and/or objections to these. • In response to a further question raised by Council, the Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager confirmed that any SPG cannot solve existing issues that exist at any particular development, however, in respect of this particular SPG existing catchment areas are looked at, including surpluses and deficits across schools and then the net pupil generation is what informs the level of contribution. For a large site, this could result in a new school or for smaller sites this contribution may just be for the provision of extra school places. The SPG clarifies further how these calculations are undertaken
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	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council: A) Noted the contents of this Report and the Officer's consultation responses to the representations received following public consultation on the draft SPG for Educational Facilities and Residential Development, together with resultant amendments set out in Appendix 2 attached to the report. B) Adopted the final form Educational Facilities and Residential Development SPG (Appendix 1) for immediate application in making development management decisions and in the determination of planning applications along with the adopted RLDP; C) Delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities and Group Manager – Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical of factual corrections as necessary prior to publication of the adopted Educational Facilities and Residential Development SPG; and D) Delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities and Group Manager – Planning and Development Services to undertake and publish annual index-linked updates to Table 2 – Cost per Pupil Place (page 14) of the report, of the final form Educational Facilities and Residential Development SPG, to ensure such costs remain up to date.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

317. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	The purpose of this report presented by the Monitoring Officer was to inform Council of an Information Report for noting that has been published since its last scheduled meeting. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Information Report detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the cover report, be noted.
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Date Decision Made	23 September 2026
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318. To receive the following questions from:

Decision Made	Councillor HJ David received a response to his question from the Cabinet Member Education and Young People. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was also responded to by the Cabinet Member Councillor M Williams received a response to his question from the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Housing. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was also responded to by the Cabinet Member Councillor O Clatworthy received a response to his question from the Leader. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was also responded to by the Leader. Councillor M Hughes received a response to his question from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was also responded to by the Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member. Councillor S Bletsoe received a response to his question from the Cabinet Member Education and Young People. He asked a supplementary question which was also responded to by the Cabinet Member.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

319. Notice of Motion Proposed by:

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> a) That the Notice of Motion proposed by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing as illustrated at Agenda item 11 (1) be accepted by Council. b) That the Notice of Motion proposed by the Cabinet Member Education and Young People as illustrated at Agenda item 11
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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

	(2) be accepted by Council following an electronic vote, after a member of Council submitted an amendment to the Motion. The result of the vote was as follows:- <table><tr><td>For (the original Motion)</td><td>Against</td><td>Abstain</td></tr><tr><td>38</td><td>0</td><td>4</td></tr></table> It was further agreed as a result of the suggested amendment to the Notice of Motion at b) above, that a wider use of cycle routes etc, ie County Borough wide, be undertaken, and that Council considers the outcome of this at a future meeting through a further Motion or in the form of a formal report.	For (the original Motion)	Against	Abstain	38	0	4
For (the original Motion)	Against	Abstain					
38	0	4					
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026						

320. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	23 September 2026

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

The meeting closed at 18.40.