

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council

Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB



Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhwch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 14 October 2026

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB / remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 21 October 2026 at 16:00.**

AGENDA

1 **Apologies for absence**

To receive apologies for absence from Members.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.

3 **Approval of Minutes**

To receive for approval the minutes of 23/09/2026.

7 - 16

4 **To receive announcements from:**

- (i) Mayor (or person presiding)
- (ii) Chief Executive

5 **To receive announcements by the Leader**

6 **Capital Programme Quarter 2 Update 2026-27**

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £2.48 in printing costs

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7	<u>Self-Assessment 2025/26</u>
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8	<u>Town and Village Green Applications</u>
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9	<u>To receive the following Questions from:</u>

Councillor M Hughes to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

At a time of pressing and unprecedented housing need in our communities, it is concerning that there are plots of land with planning permission for residential development which are left dormant for excessive periods of time. In some cases building plots are left to deteriorate to the point that they become derelict. One example in my own ward of Maesteg East is the former Libanus Chapel site in Bridgend Road. In this case, permission for a development of four houses was first granted in December 2018 and then renewed in September 2024. Conditions have deteriorated badly over the years. I've been in regular touch with our Planning Enforcement Team on this matter, and I'm assured that everyone is doing their best to move matters forward.

My question to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing is therefore how many sites - and associated number of potential residential units - are there in Bridgend County which, after being awarded planning permission at the outset, have not commenced development within what the Development Control Section would consider to be an acceptable period of time?

10 Notice of Motion Proposed by:

Proposed by Cllr J Gebbie

Restoring Public Trust Through a Recall Mechanism for Councillors in Wales

This Council notes that:

1. Public trust in politics is built upon accountability, transparency and integrity.
2. The Welsh Government has rightly sought to strengthen ethical standards in local government through the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Ethical Standards Framework.
3. Despite these reforms, councillors in Wales remain exempt from any statutory recall mechanism, even where serious misconduct has irreparably damaged public confidence.
4. Members of Parliament are subject to the Recall of MPs Act 2015, enabling constituents, in prescribed circumstances, to petition for a by-election following serious misconduct.
5. No equivalent democratic safeguard exists for local government in Wales, despite councillors making decisions that directly affect residents every day, including council tax, planning, education, housing, social care, economic development and community safety.
6. This inconsistency creates a democratic deficit whereby electors have greater powers to hold Members of Parliament to account than they do the councillors who represent them locally.
7. Strengthening democratic accountability is not about weakening local government—it is about strengthening public confidence in those elected to serve.

This Council believes that:

1. Every elected representative should remain accountable to those who elected them throughout their term of office.

2. Public office is founded upon trust, and where that trust has been fundamentally breached through serious misconduct, the electorate should have the opportunity to determine whether that individual continues to represent them.
3. The overwhelming majority of councillors serve with integrity and dedication, and a statutory recall mechanism would enhance, rather than diminish, public confidence in local democracy.
4. Any recall process should apply only in clearly defined statutory circumstances, with robust safeguards to prevent frivolous, vexatious or politically motivated campaigns.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call upon the Welsh Government to introduce legislation establishing a statutory recall mechanism for councillors in Wales.
2. Request that such legislation provides for recall petitions to be triggered only in clearly defined circumstances, including serious criminal convictions or significant sanctions imposed under the Ethical Standards Framework.
3. Write to the First Minister, the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Local Government, the Presiding Officer of the Senedd, all Members of the Senedd representing Bridgend County Borough, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales seeking their support for this democratic reform.
4. Request that the Welsh Local Government Association adopts the introduction of a statutory recall mechanism for councillors as a national policy priority.

Council further declares that:

Democracy does not end on polling day. Public office is a privilege entrusted by local people, not an entitlement retained regardless of conduct. Where serious misconduct destroys public confidence, elected representatives should not be able to hide behind a five-year mandate. In those exceptional circumstances, the final judgment should rest not with politicians, but with the electorate. This Council therefore calls upon the Welsh Government to ensure that the people of Wales are afforded the same democratic right to hold their local representatives to account as already exists for Members of Parliament

11 Urgent Items

To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution.

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you would like to view this meeting live, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services

Councillors:

S Aspey

H T Bennett

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
S J 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
RL Penhale-Thomas
J E Pratt
R J Smith
JC Spanswick
I M Spiller
T Thomas
JH Tildesley MBE
A Ulberini-Williams
G Walter
A Wathan
AJ Williams
HM Williams
I Williams
MJ Williams
R Williams
E D Winstanley
T Wood