

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

F D Bletsoe

AJ Williams

MJ Williams

Present Virtually

JPD Blundell

N Clarke

HJ David

M L Hughes

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

T Thomas

RL Penhale-Thomas

Apologies for Absence

H Griffiths, S J Griffiths and E D Winstanley

Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Colin Davies - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing and Councillor Gary Haines – Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)

Janine Nightingale – Corporate Director – Communities

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick

Councillor Hywel Williams

Councillor Martyn Jones

Councillor Eugene Caparros

Councillor Melanie Evans

Leader

Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation

Cabinet Member for Education and Young People

Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Jake Morgan

Carys Lord

Lindsay Harvey

Claire Marchant

Kelly Watson

Chief Executive

Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation

Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People

Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing

Chief Officer - Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services

Stacey Forde

Daniel Taylor

Zak Shell

Head of Performance and Workforce Cultural Change

Head of Transformation and Digital

Head of Operations

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Kate Pask
Anya Richards

Corporate Policy and Performance Manager
Group Manager – Communication, Public Affairs and Policy

Officers:

Rachel Keepins
Jessica McLellan

Democratic Services Manager
Scrutiny Officer

Declarations of Interest

None.

212. Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2026/27

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. The Committee recognised the need to rationalise the number of Commitments and Performance Indicators (PIs) but recommended that consideration be given to the introduction of measuring performance against: a. the condition of footways in addition to carriageways; b. other extreme weather events such as heat waves in addition to flooding; c. sickness days; d. retention and workforce stability; e. of partners, such as Care and Repair, who also help people maximise their benefit claims; an f. the number of children in temporary accommodation. 2. The Committee expressed concern regarding the absence of PIs under some of the Commitments and recommended that where this was the case, consideration be given to including some form of performance measurement, e.g. a date, deadline, etc. 3. <u>DCO23.05</u> The Committee queried why the 2026-27 5% target for the <i>Reduction in Emissions</i> PI was the same as the 5% target for the previous year and were advised that the current target was to
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	achieve a further 5% in year improvement and recommended that this be clarified on the Dashboard. 4. <u>DCO23.04</u> The Committee were advised that the target regarding the number of business start-ups assisted is largely driven by the level of funding available and recommended that consideration be given to how the range of other, non-financial ways in which the Council supports business start-ups is measured. 5. <u>DEFS 2</u> The Committee recommended that, with regard to the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A-A* at GCSEs and A-A* at A Level, more timely information is shared with Members of the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee once verified. 6. <u>DEFS 2</u> The Committee recommended that in addition to GCSEs and A Levels, consideration be given to capturing all alternative vocational qualifications within PIs 7. <u>WBO3.4.1</u> The Committee recommended that the proposed provision of a new Welsh Seedling School in Porthcawl be included in the Band B School Modernisation Projects. 8. <u>EDU008a & b</u> The Committee sought clarification regarding the way in which the number of permanent exclusions targets were expressed and recommended that the actual number be included in the Performance Dashboard. 9. The Committee discussed that positive performance should also be reflected in the Performance Dashboard, that comments from Estyn were recorded against some Commitments and PIs for Education and recommended that consideration be given to including comments from Care Inspectorate Wales against the performance measures for Social Services, as appropriate. 10. The Committee expressed concern regarding targets set with a decline from the actual achieved performance in 2025-26 and recommended that a review be undertaken to ensure that all targets are ambitious and realistic, e.g. percentage of people supported through the Financial Assistance and Support Service) which achieved 96% in 2025-26 and target set at 80% for 2026-27 and queried whether this should be increased and if not that the rationale reflect the reasons.
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	Additional Information Requested 11. <u>SCO23.06 and 07</u> The Committee requested clarification in the narrative of the correlation between the indicators relating to blue flags, green flags parks, green spaces and the Biodiversity Plan. 12. <u>PAM/020, 021 & 022</u> In relation to the roads categorised as A, B and C, the Committee requested: a. the kilometres of road in each category; b. how the conditions of the category of roads compare to other Welsh Local Authorities; and c. the criteria applied to the condition of the roads. 13. <u>Percentage of streets that are clean</u> The Committee requested a copy of the criteria applied to whether a street is classified as clean. 14. The Committee requested a detailed breakdown of the £4.6 million investment in highway infrastructure in 2026/27 including recurring, revenue and capital, and a detailed breakdown of which of the funding is external and internal. 15. The Committee requested information regarding how much money is being allocated to the Bridgend Works Initiative and how many staff will be employed in it. 16. The Committee requested information setting out the specific investments the Council has made into flood prevention. 17. <u>WBO 3: Help people get the skills they need for work</u> The Committee queried the target set much lower than 2025-26 actual performance and requested a briefing note regarding the relationship between the target setting and the level of funding. 18. The Committee requested a report regarding the challenges faced by the Council in delivering large capital projects including the school modernisation programme be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme.
Date Decision Made	25 September 2025

213. Emerging Bridgend County Borough 2040 Transformation Vision

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendations: Recommendations 19. The Committee recommended that all reports, including Performance Framework and Budget Monitoring reports clearly identify in the related narrative, which Services are included in Transformation Projects to ensure it is clear to all Members, if a Service is undergoing Transformation work and any related impact, alongside monitoring that Service's performance and / or revenue budget forecast. 20. The Committee recommended that the governance and structure of the Transformation Board be reviewed and the progress of delivering the Transformation Programme be reported to the Committee on a quarterly or biannual basis. 21. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to how to ensure the 2040 Vision remains robust against a range of external factors and that sufficient measurable milestones are utilised to ensure that the delivery of the Vision remains focused.
Date Decision Made	25 September 2025

214. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	25 September 2026

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

The meeting closed at 14:57.

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