

BCBC Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor Alex Williams

Ward: Pencoed & Penprysg

Party: Independent / Democratic Alliance

This report identifies my key activities for the period **1st July 2023 – 10th June 2024**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose.

* The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of Bridgend County Borough Council. *

Role & Responsibilities

During 2023/2024, I have undertaken a variety of roles within the Council in addition to my responsibilities in representing the residents of Pencoed & Penprysg and assisting them on a wide range of issues.

In addition to Full Council, I am a member of several Committees and was appointed as Chairperson of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee; Chairperson of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1 and a Member of the Governance and Audit Committee.

As a result of holding these roles, I sat as a Member of the BCBC Corporate Performance Assessment Board; the Budget Research & Evaluation Panel; the School Improvement Group; the Social Services Improvement Board.

I am also a Member of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Pencoed Community Safety Sub-Group.

Full Council

During the reporting period, there have been 10 Full Council meetings during which I made contributions including:

- A question the Cabinet Member for Education on the number of schools in a financial deficit in the County Borough;
- A proposed a motion for debate on a more sustainable and resilient system of local government funding.

For more information about the work of Bridgend County Borough's Full Council, please click [here](#).

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee

There have been 8 meetings of the Committee and the issues discussed include:

- The Medium-Term Financial Strategy & Capital Strategy (Budget)
- Budget Monitoring

- Corporate Plan Delivery Plan; Corporate Performance & Self-Assessment
- Recycling and Waste Services post-2024
- The Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate Annual Report
- Strategic Workforce Plan
- ICT Resilience
- Engagement & Participation Strategy

For more information about the work of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, please click [here](#).

Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1

There have been 6 meetings of the Committee which primarily deals with issues pertaining to Education & Family Support. The issues which have been discussed include:

- Youth Justic Service
- Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing
- Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service
- The Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
- Annual Local Authority Scrutiny Report - Central South Consortium

For more information about the work of Scrutiny & Overview Committee 1, please click [here](#).

Governance & Audit Committee

I was a Member of the Council's Governance & Audit Committee until May 2024. I and colleagues were responsible for reviewing the Council's governance, performance assessment, risk management and control frameworks and overseeing the financial reporting and annual governance processes. For more information about the work of the Governance & Audit Committee, please click [here](#).

Attendance

At the 28 meetings which I have been expected to attend, I have been present for 26 and have had to send apologies to 2 meetings.

Referrals & Member Development

During the reporting period, I have supported the residents of Pencoed & Penprysg on a variety of issues and have formally raised 160+ referrals with the Council via the Portal. This is in addition to raising issues on a daily basis directly with relevant officers and formally liaising with other organisations on behalf of residents and informally addressing dozens of other issues which I have been asked to resolve.

To enable me to fulfil my role as your representative, I have attended several Member Development Activities which have assisted me to ensure that my knowledge of national and local issues affecting the Council and the ward which I represent is maintained.

Further information about my roles, responsibilities, and activities, please click [here](#).

Constituency Activity

The Council delivers more than 800 services, and the role of a County Borough Councillor is varied. From the referrals which I have made on behalf of residents in Pencoed & Penprysg, I have sought to support members of the public on issues ranging from: -

- Adult and Children's Social Care and Safeguarding
- Education & Family Support, Home to School Transport, Additional Learning Needs and Welsh-medium education provision
- Waste Management, Recycling, Fly-Tipping and Dog Fouling
- Highways and Transport including resurfacing, potholes, speeding, parking, active travel, road safety, street lighting and signage
- Social Housing and Disabled Facilities Grants
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Rights of Way
- Planning & Planning Enforcement
- Greenspaces – Grass cutting and TPOs
- Flooding and Drainage
- Council Tax and Cost of Living Payments
- Regulatory Issues including Noise Pollution; Environmental Health; Fire Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Bereavement Services

I am also a Committee Member of Heol-y-Cyw RFC and Treasurer of Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall.

Initiatives and Special Activities

Among the key issues affecting the Pencoed and Penprysg Ward on which I have been supporting residents and working with Bridgend County Borough Council are:

- The multi-million-pound ambition to regenerate Pencoed town centre; dual the Penprysg Road Bridge; close the railway crossing; and ensure that any moratorium on development west of the railway line remains in place until Hendre Road is widened and public amenities in Pencoed improve.
- Issues surrounding the school pick up/drop off zone at Pencoed Primary School.
- Planning issues surrounding a major development east of Pencoed.
- Ongoing issues with the Recreational Covenants on land at Pencoed RFC which have potential ramifications on School Modernisation.
- Planning Appeals in Rhiwceiliog.

Councillor: Alex Williams

Date: 10/06/24