

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2024 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr  
P Davies

E L P Caparros

M Jones

M J Evans

Present Virtually

J Gebbie

M Jones

HM Williams

Apologies for Absence

None.

Officers:

Kelly Watson  
Claire Marchant  
Lindsay Harvey  
Carys Lord  
Janine Nightingale  
Deborah Exton  
Rachel Keepins  
Robin Davies  
Oscar Roberts

Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People  
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change  
Corporate Director - Communities  
Deputy Head of Finance  
Democratic Services Manager  
Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support)  
Business Administration Apprentice – Democratic Services

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**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr M Evans declared a personal interest in item 5, as a governor of a school mentioned in the report.

Cllr E L P Caparros declared a prejudicial interest in item 6, as a spouse is involved in one of the firms involved.

Cllr M Evans declared a prejudicial interest in item 6, as they share a role with Cllr Caparros who has a prejudicial interest.

Cllr N Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 6.

Cllr M Jones declared a prejudicial interest in item 8, as a ward member, a supporter of the club and as a supporter of the club's bid.

**340. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the minutes of the 16/04/2024 and 14/05/2024 as true and accurate records.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**341. Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024**

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support) presented this report in order to seek approval for the new Health and Safety Policy following new government legislation.</p> <p>Members posed questions on the report on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of the policy on Council staff</li><li>• Communication to Council staff</li><li>• How effectiveness of the policy can be reported and tracked</li><li>• Staff and managerial engagement with the consultation and formation of the policy</li></ul> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet approved the new Corporate Health and Safety Policy 2024, noting the involvement of trade unions and the suggestion of a combined safety culture within the workplace.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**342. Outcomes of Estyn Inspections of schools in Bridgend during Spring Term 2024**

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Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director - Education, Early Years &amp; Young People delivered this report summarizing Estyn inspections into Bridgend schools in the spring term, and thanked staff of all involved schools for their hard work working towards these results. Special note was made of a school asked to share their best practice as an example of other schools for Estyn purposes.</p> <p>Questions were posed to the Corporate Director on the subject of new Estyn inspection guidelines and formats, mitigation of potential stressors rising from potential negative outcomes and reports.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> Cabinet noted the report, thanking the Corporate Director, the Education department and all the teachers and other staff working to meet these reports and any recommendations arising from the reports.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**343. Learner Travel Policy**

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager (Strategy, Performance and Support) gave this report on updates being made to requirements to allow learners to travel to their assigned school, in light of continued budget pressures placed on the Council. It also includes new scrutiny on potential issues within the existing policy, and the possibility of safe walking routes to pupils to allow them to more easily utilise existing routes without needing to use transport.</p> <p>Council also took feedback from Cllr Elaine Winstanley representing the Scrutiny process done as a result of the policy proposals, and detailed twelve recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exemptions for care-experienced children in light of the Council's commitment to supporting its care-experienced learners</li><li>• Ensuring that the impact of any changes are fully understood for attendance implications.</li><li>• Communicating with all stakeholders involved.</li><li>• Monitoring and allowing feedback on established safe walking routes to ensure their continued accessibility.</li><li>• How children may be treated in school as a result of walking</li><li>• Addressing any capacity issues as a result of certain exemptions in the policy</li><li>• Communicating with bus routes to ensure safe and easy public transport</li><li>• Asking Bridgend and Pencoed Colleges whether they can help support learners' travel needs.</li><li>• Ensuring the Council stays in line with recommendations from the Wellbeing of Future Generations</li></ul>
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	<p>Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The impact on vulnerable pupils who may be more at risk of becoming NEET.</li><li>• Any issues with potential mileage allowances for parents.</li><li>• Ensuring proper monitoring of the scheme to allow for proper oversight.</li></ul> <p>Members asked questions on the report on subjects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The details on the conditions surrounding learners currently in receipt of the Policy.</li><li>• Any other mitigations for potential removal of benefits.</li><li>• Potential edge-cases on any means-tested benefits.</li><li>• Any potential climate change implications.</li></ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cabinet determined to progress Proposals 1, 2, 3 and 4 choosing to defer Proposal 5 - The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a 'personal transport budget', pending further investigation, thanking the officers involved with creating the report and acknowledging the unfortunate need to alter this policy in light of the Council's financial situation, as well as concerns raised by residents on several of the recommendations of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**344. Waste Services - Rolling Fleet Replacement Scheme**

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director - Education, Early Years &amp; Young People delivered this report following Cabinet's decision to approve a rolling replacement scheme for the Council's recycling fleet and investments made in the past and future under said guidelines. The report detailed a Delegated Power costing £980,000 spent in June prior to the meeting due to the requirements of the contract and the limitations of decision-making permitted in the pre-election period. The financial amounts involved a cost of £56,000 for cameras and livery and refurbishment cost of approximately £90,000, amounting to a total amount of £1,126,000.</p> <p>Members posed questions on subjects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further possible changes in cost.</li><li>• Potential disagreement from Council in approving the budget.</li><li>• Whether all possible avenues have been explored to ensure value for money.</li><li>• Whether more vehicles could be refurbished rather than requiring replacement.</li></ul> <p>It was noted that should Council not approve the Capital Programme report, the amount available to</p>
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	<p>purchase and refurbish these vehicles would only cover four of the five vehicles due to cost limitations. This forms an existing part of the Capital Programme designated for Fleet Management.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Subject to Council approval on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Cabinet approved the placement of two new orders with Plan B Management Solutions to include the purchase of five new recycling vehicles and three existing refurbishments.</p> <p>Cabinet also delegated authority to negotiate any amendments to the current Waste Services contract with Plan B to the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**345. Community Asset Transfer - Llangeinor Pavilion & Playing Fields to Llangeinor FC**

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director - Education, Early Years &amp; Young People gave this report detailing a proposed financial grant to Llangeinor FC to build a new pavilion as well as purchasing equipment to maintain their existing property. This goes alongside a 35-year lease. It was noted that the proposed Community Asset Transfer posed a significant cost to the Capital Programme's overall budget for this area and thus should be carefully considered.</p> <p>Members asked clarifying questions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cost to the Council to fully replace the Pavilion in house rather than involving other funding.</li></ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cabinet approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The business and financial plans submitted by Llangeinor Football Ltd to support the leasing of the Pavilion, football pitch, other green spaces and car park at the Llangeinor Playing Fields;</li><li>2. The funding request submitted under the CAT fund for purchasing Pitch Maintenance Equipment in the sum of £10,000; and</li><li>3. The funding request submitted under the CAT fund for the cost of demolishing and replacement of the existing pavilion in the sum of £150,000 and which would take the full funding package for the transfer under the CAT Fund to £160,000.</li></ol> <p>Cabinet noted the need to review Community Asset Transfer reports when they come back to Cabinet and having a robust application system for other interested organisations. They also noted the success of this</p>
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	CAT for using Council resources to attract further investment in Bridgend communities from other sources using such avenues as matched funding.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**346. Children Looked After Specialist Support Service (CLASS)**

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing delivered this report detailing the Council's intent to enter into a joint agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC to create a specialist support service for care-experienced children.</p> <p>Members enquired about the potential for matched funding in the future and when said funding may be required.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enter into a regional collaboration agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC for the provision of CLASS;</li><li>• Delegate authority for agreeing the terms of the regional collaboration agreement and any ancillary agreements and to arrange execution of those agreements on behalf of the Council to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing.</li><li>• Waves Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.12 for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC to procure CLASS, including entering into a contract on behalf of the Council. Cabinet also noted that approval to award any contract will be sought via the Council's Scheme of Delegation following the conclusion of the procurement and evaluation process;</li><li>• Delegate authority for representation and decision making on the Regional Project Board to the Head Of Children's Social Care.</li></ul> <p>Cabinet also noted the pleasing downward trend of moved placements among Bridgend looked-after children.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**347. Assisted Transport Policy**

Decision Made	The Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing presented this report on the need for an Assisted
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	<p>Transport Policy in order to aid those in Bridgend with care and support needs. The policy will make use of an upcoming public consultation.</p> <p>The deputy leader welcomed the report and stated that it was important to ensure that all individuals received the support they needed to allow them to enjoy life to the full and this policy provided that support</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet approved the commencement of a public consultation on the Assisted Transport Policy to be reported back to cabinet for approval and implementation.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**348. Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy**

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing presented this report detailing the requirement previously unfilled by BCBC in installing this policy to all direct care services.</p> <p>Members posed questions on the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether individuals whose finances are managed have a robust Capacity Assessment.</li><li>• Whether any need to manage money falls under individuals' care plans.</li><li>• How funding will be utilised when looking to support individuals further, possibly involving hub working.</li></ul> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet approved the Supporting Individuals to Manage Money Policy, noting the importance to have plans in place to empower individuals to make decisions about their money in case of any loss of capacity. Cabinet also noted the agreement of future funding from Welsh Government to continue to support the housing sector and individuals at risk of homelessness in Bridgend.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**349. Housing Support Grant Uplift**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change presented this report involving funding allocated to BCBC from Welsh Government to support providers to meet the real living wage and the sector in more general terms to continue their services.</p>
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	<p>Members asked questions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The allocation and spending of any unused funds.</li><li>• How these decisions will be made in regard to extra spending.</li></ul> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> Cabinet noted the report, approving contract modification under Contract Procedure Rules 3.3.3 and 3.3.6 to ensure that commissioned providers can address any pay pressures and that no Housing Support Grant funded contracts are in a deficit.</p> <p>Authority was delegated to the Head of Partnerships and Housing in consultation with the Chief Officer Finance, Housing and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to negotiate terms and arrange execution of appropriate documentation for the modification of these contracts.</p> <p>Cabinet also noted that the remainder of the contract modifications would be approved in accordance with the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**350. Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change presented this report which gave an update on the Council’s budget outturn of £342,000,000, which resulted in a net overspend last year of £7,054,000 including a Directorate budget overspend of £13,800,000 and a net underspend of Council-wide budgets of £5,270,000. It also includes an overview of earmarked reserves which saw an overall drawdown of £12,100,000, and no new earmarked reserves have been able to be created for the first time in the Council’s history.</p> <p>Members posed a question on what measures need to be considered to help improve this financial position going forward.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> Cabinet noted the revenue outturn position for 2023-24, also noting the age demographic change in the UK to an ageing population as well as declining birthrates and a noted rise in homelessness that has resulted in further Council commitments to residents, meaning the Revenue Support Grant received from Welsh Government is insufficient to meet certain needs.</p>
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**351. Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change presented this report which outlined the Council's current financial position as of the end of June 2024, from a budget of £360,600,000. The Council's projected overspend is £9,200,000 made up of a Directorate net overspend of £11,000,000 and a net underspend of £1,900,000 on council-wide budgets. Large pressure points include social services, home-to-school transport, housing &amp; homelessness and legal services.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cabinet noted the projected year end revenue position for 2024-25.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**352. Capital Programme Outturn 2023-24 And Quarter 1 Update 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change delivered this report on the Council's Capital Outturn position on the last financial year and the first quarter of this financial year. Last year's budget as approved by Cabinet was £49,900,000 from a wide range of different sources, totalling to £51,800,000, of which £38,000,000 was spent last year which plus slippage and other factors has resulted in a £35,000 underspend.</p> <p>Members posed questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details of a Capital investment in V2C.</li><li>• Further information on interest generated from funds.</li></ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cabinet noted the Capital Programme Outturn for 2023-24 and the 2024-25 Quarter 1 update to 30 June 2024, as well as agreeing that the revised Capital Programme be submitted to Council for approval. The Committee also noted the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25</p>
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**353. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023-24**

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Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change presented this report which provided an overview of treasury management and cashflow over the last financial year. The officer also provided various pieces of context to outline the wider financial situation surrounding these numbers. The Council's total external borrowing over the last financial year was £104,600,000, of which £99,600,000 was long term borrowing at an average interest of 4.7%. Meanwhile, investments totalled £50,000,000 at an average interest rate of 5.02%.</p> <p>Members asked questions pertaining to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What measures are made to ensure investments are made appropriately and in line with wider objectives.</li></ul> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet noted the treasury management activities for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, as well as the Treasury Management Indicators against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**354. Treasury Management Quarter 1 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Finance, Housing &amp; Change presented this report which outlined the treasury management's first quarter for this financial year, detailing a further reduction in inflation and a continuing stable interest rate as wider context. £99,580,000 of long term debt remains and the £5,000,000 of short term debt has been repaid. Meanwhile, the Council has £53,350,000 worth of investments, of which the average interest is 5.19%.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet noted the treasury management activities for the quarter ending 30 June 2024, as well as the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**355. Representation On Outside Bodies, Joint Committees And Cabinet Committees**

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Decision Made	The Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate presented this report which outlined membership to other bodies that the Council is required to appoint members to.  <u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet appointed the requisite number of Members to the Joint Committees, Cabinet Committees and other outside bodies.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**356. Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes**

Decision Made	The Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate presented this report which reviewed the items to be included on the above Forward Work Programmes from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2024 to the 31 <sup>st</sup> of October 2024.  <u>RESOLVED:</u> Cabinet approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024, and noted the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

**357. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2024

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

The meeting closed at 18:18.