

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2024 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson for the Meeting

HJ David

GH Haines

Present Virtually

RM Granville
A Williams

S J Griffiths
AJ Williams

M L Hughes

T Thomas

Apologies for Absence

F D Bletsoe, RL Penhale-Thomas and E D Winstanley

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Hywel Williams
Councillor Martyn Jones
Councillor Neelo Farr
Councillor Melanie Jayne Evans
Councillor Paul Davies

Leader
Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Mark Shephard
Carys Lord
Lindsay Harvey
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson

Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

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Kirsty Williams
Helen Hammond
Stephanie Davies

Partnership & CSP Manager
Public Services Board Officer
Partnership Support and Data Assistant

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence
Lucy Beard
Stephen Griffiths

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer
Interim Scrutiny Officer/ Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Timothy Thomas – item 5 – Personal - Works in a policy and campaigns capacity for property agents and responded to the Welsh Government's White Paper on homelessness.

131. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 25 July 2024 and 9 September 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	24 October 2024

132. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (PSB) and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee nominated the following Members to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Huw David, Councillor Simon Griffiths, and Councillor Martin Hughes (nominations from the Labour Group).• Councillor Tim Thomas (nomination from the Bridgend County Independents Group).• Councillor Alex Williams (nomination from the Democratic Alliance Group); and• Councillor Freya Bletsoe (Substitute Member nominated from the Bridgend County Independents
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	Group to attend the PSB JOSC when one of the five Members are not available).
Date Decision Made	24 October 2024

133. Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In addition to the usual winter challenges, the Committee expressed concern regarding the potential impact on social services, arising from the disruption at Princess of Wales Hospital while essential maintenance takes place. In particular, concern was expressed regarding pressures on the workforce including additional travelling time required and pressures relating to the decision making and payment of top up fees. The Committee therefore recommended that the situation needed to be carefully monitored and that a report be provided, as appropriate, to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.2. The Committee expressed concern regarding the risk that next year, many schools could have deficit budgets of over 5% which require a deficit recovery plan, as schools' budgets are being based on this year's figures and not taking account of further indicative budget reduction proposals for 2025-26. The Committee therefore recommended that future reports relating to the budget include projected deficit figures for schools accordingly.3. The Committee recommended that the next quarterly report include details of the actions taken by Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board, to find the full required savings in respect of non-essential recruitment and expenditure. <p><u>Additional Information</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. The Committee requested additional information on how the Council compared with other local
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	<p>authorities in Wales in the delivery of services, including temporary accommodation, for the homeless.</p> <p>5. The Committee requested additional information on how many individuals and households are being housed in temporary accommodation by the Council.</p> <p>6. The Committee requested additional information on the funding arrangements with, and the steps being undertaken to ensure fair contributions from, partner organisations, including the Health Board, for the provision of residential placements and the delivery of social care.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 October 2024

134. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report the Committee approved its Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the recommendations below, noted the FWPs for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendix C, D and E, and noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee’s Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B:</p> <p>1. The Committee expressed concern regarding the significant projected overspend in learner support and additional learning needs and the costs of providing the related statutory home to school transport. The Committee recommended that the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 request a report to explore whether alternative models of delivering these services could contribute to cost savings.</p> <p>2. The Committee recommended when considering the Housing and Homelessness Update report scheduled for 2 December 2024, Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 Members explore the models of support offered by other local authorities across Wales, consider whether Bridgend’s level of homelessness and approach is comparable, and how more emphasis could be placed on the prevention of homelessness.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 October 2024

135. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	24 October 2024

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

The meeting closed at 12:24.