

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

H T Bennett
HJ David
P Ford
M L Hughes
J E Pratt

A R Berrow
P Davies
J Gebbie
D M Hughes
JC Spanswick

JPD Blundell
M J Evans
RM Granville
M Jones
E D Winstanley

E L P Caparros
N Farr
GH Haines
M Lewis

Present Virtually

S Aspey
C L C Davies
P W Jenkins
I M Spiller
A Wathan
MJ Williams

S J Bletsoe
W R Goode
M R John
T Thomas
AJ Williams
R Williams

N Clarke
S J Griffiths
W J Kendall
A Ulberini-Williams
HM Williams
T Wood

RJ Collins
D T Harrison
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
G Walter
I Williams

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Laura Griffiths
Lindsay Harvey
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Oscar Roberts
Mark Shephard
Kelly Watson

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

93. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies were received from the following Members:- Councillors F D Bletsoe, RM James, MJ Kearns and R J Smith.
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

94. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following personal declarations of interest were made:- Councillor J Pratt – Agenda item 6 as a member of the emergency services. Councillor E Winstanley – Agenda item 7 as an employee of Awen Cultural Trust, due to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, being mentioned in the report. Councillor Amanda Williams – Agenda item 7 as a Community Governor of Coity Primary School which is referenced to in the report. Councillor J Gebbie – Agenda item 7 as a School Governor at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School.
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

95. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of Council dated 15 January 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

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96. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following dignitaries (no decisions required/made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor;• Chief Executive• Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

97. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made)
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

98. Adoption of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented a report, in order to outline the principles of the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy and to seek approval for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to demonstrate its commitment to upholding the principles by signing up to the charter.</p> <p>South Wales Police and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council are seeking support for the charter, which outlines 6 main principles as detailed in the report, from partner organisations with the aim of all partner agencies having signed the Charter by March 2025.</p> <p>In adopting the Charter, the council will be making a public commitment to treating families bereaved by public tragedy with care and compassion and to acting with transparency and in public interest, in responding to and supporting communities to recover from such events.</p>
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	<p>A Member asked how the Council would scrutinise itself in order to ensure it is achieving the high standards and principles of the Charter and will there be any political ownership, to ensure that the Council is abiding by these principals.</p> <p>The Chief Executive stated that the Council already abided by most if not all of the principles of the Charter, in the way it dealt with any unfortunate public tragedy situations, through its Emergency Planning team support and procedures, so therefore the Authority had a very good sound track record there, with the Charter just formalising the principles that are already in being.</p> <p>The Charter will ensure that we reference, monitor and adhere to any future situations of public tragedy in the South Wales area, should sadly they arise.</p> <p>The Leader added that there would also be a political steer in respect of the future monitoring of the Charter.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy. • Authorised the Leader and the Chief Executive to jointly sign the Charter on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council.
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

99. Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2024-25

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report that confirmed that paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules require that she shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfills that requirement.</p> <p>The report therefore provided an update on the quarter 3 spend and projected spend for 2024-25 as at 31 December 2024, the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25.</p>
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	<p>Appendix A of the report showed the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at the end of last year, for the individual schemes in 2024-25.</p> <p>Appendix B included the revised capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34, while Appendix C gave details of the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected 2024-25.</p> <p>Table 1 in the report reflected the capital programme for each Directorate from the November 2024 approved Council position to Quarter 3.</p> <p>Table 2 summarised the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2024-25. The capital resources were managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.</p> <p>The remainder of the report gave details of the schemes pending, including also, details of any further allocation of funding to some of these, for varying reasons, so outlined in the document.</p> <p>Members made comments and asked some questions of the Cabinet and Corporate Management Board, which were responded to by them. Examples of these were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members asked how progress was developing on certain schemes included in the Capital Programme, more notably, at the Sunnyside health and wellbeing village, the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion re-development and the Porthcawl Welsh Medium Seedling school;• It is noted that Porthcawl Bus station is estimated to cost £100k to maintain, which amounts to a significant revenue pressure for the Council;• The additional Welsh Government funding of £731k towards capital maintenance costs for BCB schools is welcomed. On what basis is this investment intended to be allocated?• Could members have more detail outside of the meeting regarding the revenue implications against schemes, more particularly those that are subject to any overspend, in comparison to the projected project initial estimated cost? How much contingency is held within the capital programme and is that contingency split at Directorate/Council level, or at project level?• How up to date are the individual project forecasts and are they updated monthly?• How is the capital programme, particularly since the inception of Covid, being affected by access to goods and materials, inflated contract prices and difficulties in attracting a sufficient labour workforce, in order to successfully carry out project works? <p>The Leader concluded debate on the item, by confirming (in response to a further question), that all play</p>
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	<p>areas would be refurbished by April 2027, as agreed as part of the Labour administration manifesto. He was also pleased to announce, that the local authority were expecting additional funding from Welsh Government to commit towards highway improvements.</p> <p>He was also pleased to see the significant progress being made to some of the key projects in the capital programme, for example, to Heronsbridge School, the Sunnyside health village and Coety primary School extension, amongst others.</p> <p>A member requested a vote on the report’s recommendations and this was duly seconded. The outcome of the vote, was as follows:-</p> <table><tr><td><u>For</u></td><td><u>Against</u></td><td><u>Abstentions</u></td></tr><tr><td>37</td><td>1</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <p>It was therefore,</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the Council’s Capital Programme 2024-25 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2024 (Appendix A of the report refers).• Also noted the net slippage of £11.472 million to 2025-26 as detailed in Appendix B.• Approved the new additions/reductions to the capital programme in 2024-25 totalling £1.070 million as outlined in Appendix B.• Further noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2023-24 and projected for 2024-25 (Appendix C).	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	37	1	7
<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>					
37	1	7					
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025						

100. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Heidi Bennett to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response circulated to Members in advance of the meeting).</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Bennett at the meeting that was responded to by the</p>
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	Corporate Director - Communities.
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

101. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Heidi Bennett

Decision Made	<p>“There are a number of derelict and degrading buildings across the County, but this question focuses on the heart of Bridgend Town Centre where a number of buildings have been derelict eyesores for years, even decades.</p> <p>I appreciate BCBC does not own any of the derelict buildings and may even be signposting owners to investment/grant opportunities. I also acknowledge that some owners/developers have been bringing some of their buildings back into use, and appreciate we have all benefitted from some spectacular high quality design and builds in pockets throughout the town, particularly those that have transformed the night time economy.</p> <p>However, there remain a number of notable buildings where there doesn't seem to have been much, if any, activity or progress made by owners in bringing them back into use.</p> <p>Could the relevant Cabinet Member advise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is BCBC doing to push progress on the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan in relation to upgrading, utilising or replacing these buildings and improving our town centre?” <p>Following some discussion by Members on the above, it was subsequently agreed that Council wholeheartedly supports the Notice of Motion.</p>
Date Decision Made	5 February 2025

102. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
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Date Decision Made	5 February 2025
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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 17:30.