

CABINET - TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025 AT 14:30

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

N Farr
M Jones

E L P Caparros

P Davies

M J Evans

Present Virtually

JC Spanswick

HM Williams

Apologies for Absence

Janine Nightingale

Officers:

Alex Rawlin
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Kelly Watson
Mark Shephard
Lindsay Harvey
Zak Shell
Michael Pitman

Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Chief Executive
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Head of Neighbourhood Services
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Paul Davies – Prejudicial interest in item 6
Cllr Neelo Farr – Prejudicial interest in item 6
Cllr Eugene Caparros – Prejudicial interest in item 6

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

471. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : that the minutes of the 18/02/2025 and 11/03/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

472. Assisted Transport Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which sought Cabinet approval of the Social Services and Wellbeing Assisted Transport Policy.</p> <p>The policy set out how the provision of assisted transport from the Authority should be the final option to be utilised in ensuring an individual is able to access the identified service to meet the need or outcome, including use of family, public and/or community-based transport options. The policy also provided guidance to staff when considering the need for transport to access a service that meets the identified need or outcome to support in ensuring that the utilisation of transport provision is able to be prioritised to those that need it most.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader welcomed the report and the timeliness of the proposed changes as it was long overdue.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>: That Cabinet approved the Social Services and Wellbeing Assisted Transport Policy (Appendix 1) to take effect from 1st May 2025.</p>
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

473. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Regulated Services in Adult Social Care

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which informed Cabinet of the CIW inspection outcomes for council-regulated adult social care services over the last year.</p> <p>She advised that six inspections were carried out by CIW. She provided background on the four themes that were considered during inspections: well-being, care and support quality, leadership/management, and environment (excluding domiciliary care). She added that the new CIW ratings (Good, Excellent, Needs Improvement and Poor) were presented ahead of their formal 2025 publication. She highlighted the key inspection findings for the six schools as set out in section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing asked if the inspections cover in-house or external home care providers The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that it was just council led services. External providers were inspected separately.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing asked if the services were randomly selected or a planned visit. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that these were randomly selected and their visits unannounced. The Cabinet Member also asked how the progress for the homes that needed improvement would be monitored. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that these were tracked through the regulatory tracker monitored by the Governance and Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources asked with regards to the improvement needed for personal plans not being updated at Ty Ynysawdre, what were the specific issues, and how operationally will improvements be ensured before the next rating. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that improvements involved standardising documentation across homes, regular reviews by managers, deep dives into care plans and quality assurance visits to ensure practice aligns with other homes before the next inspection.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the contents of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

**474. Allocations Under Town and Community Council Capital Grant Scheme,
2025-26**

Decision Made	<p>The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report which sought Cabinet approval to allocate capital funding to Town and Community Councils to develop projects in line with the recommendations contained within this report from the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2025-26.</p> <p>He explained that BCBC had £50,000 allocated for 2025-26 and subsequent years in the Council approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects. With the carry forward of funds from 2024-25 the budget available for 2025-26 is £171,892.90.</p> <p>The Leader asked why the opening of the fund was set as mid year and suggested that this be avoided due to the setting of council precepts.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources asked if T&CCs were aware of the scheme, criteria, and process and how was this promoted to them. The Head of Operations – Community Services stated that all T&CCs were written to and made aware of the grant, however we was not sure that they all understood the grant and whether they were eligible to apply for it and acknowledged that liaison needed more work.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources asked what support they had for applications. The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that the immediate plans involve the current officer supporting unsuccessful applicants to reapply. Longer-term plans rely on the new liaison post to provide dedicated support, guidance, and coordination for T&CCs across various matters, including grants. Recruitment for this post was expected in the next couple of months.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance asked if an amendment could be made to the recommendation to allow the reopening of the fund and for it to remain open until the funding was no longer available. He believed that this would allow for greater engagement and use of the funding. Members were in agreement with this recommendation.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The allocation of capital funding within the existing Capital Programme of £40,000 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme, 2025-26 to develop projects in line with the specific applications detailed at Table 2 and 3.
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	<p>Cabinet Members agreed an amendment to the second point which was as follows</p> <p>2. The reopening of the fund and allow the allocation period to remain open indefinitely, subject to available funding</p>
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

475. Corporate Plan Review for 2025/26

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Policy and Performance Manager presented a report which provided an outline of the updated Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2025/26.</p> <p>She explained that the Wellbeing Objectives were reduced from 7 to 4 with some merged or subsumed into others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wellbeing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A prosperous place with thriving communities○ Creating modern, seamless public services○ Enabling people to meet their potential○ Supporting our most vulnerable• Aims were reduced from 41 to 20.• PI's were reduced from 108 to 65• Commitments were reduced from 80 to 61 <p>The Corporate Policy and Performance Manager targets had been taken through political sign off separately from the CPDP. CMB asked in 2024 that this process be streamlined, and the two should go through political sign-off together. This change was incorporated into the process, and the targets were included in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources asked if it could be elaborated on regarding Objective 2 on actions taken/proposed to improve communication with residents, children, and young people to become more customer-focused. The Corporate Policy and Performance Manager explained that this commitment fell under the Communications team and advised that detailed plans and milestones were being developed.</p>
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	<p>Further specifics would be provide directly from the Communications Manager in due course</p> <p>The Leader highlighted a number of the targets in the report not being challenging enough to push us. He suggested a higher benchmark for a number of the targets that have remained the same for years. The Chief Executive agreed with this suggestion but stressed the importance of having realistic and obtainable targets in the current financial situation.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources asked why there was a lack of sickness target improvements. The Chief Executive stated that a decision was made a number of years ago to remove this due to the unrealistic nature of it as sickness was often not able to be controlled due to outside factors etc. However he was happy for this to be reconsidered in the future.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considered and agreed the proposed CPDP for 2025/26 in Appendix 1• Considered and agreed the proposed performance indicator targets for 2025/206 in Appendix 2.
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

476. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

477. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The following items were not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.</p>
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	Following the application of the public interest test, Cabinet resolved pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

478. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : That the exempt minutes of the 18/02/2025 and 11/03/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	08 April 2025

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

The meeting closed at 16:00