

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

H T Bennett
S Easterbrook
RM Granville
JC Spanswick
MJ Williams

E L P Caparros
M J Evans
GH Haines
T Thomas
E D Winstanley

HJ David
N Farr
M Jones
JH Tildesley MBE
T Wood

P Davies
W R Goode
J E Pratt
HM Williams

Present Virtually

S Aspey
C L C Davies
D M Hughes
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
G Walter
R Penhale-Thomas

F D Bletsoe
P Ford
RM James
R J Smith
AJ Williams

S J Bletsoe
S J Griffiths
M R John
I M Spiller
R Williams

N Clarke
M L Hughes
M Lewis
A Ulberini-Williams
A Wathan

Apologies for Absence

JPD Blundell and D T Harrison

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Elaine Winstanley - Personal interest in agenda item 8 as an Employee of AWEN Cultural Trust

Officers:

Deborah Exton
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins

Deputy Head of Finance
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Democratic Services Manager

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

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025

Janine Nightingale
Michael Pitman
Oscar Roberts
Mark Shephard

Corporate Director - Communities
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services
Chief Executive

110. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 05/02/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the amendment below:</p> <p>A Member stated that there was an issue with the minutes at item 9 whereby the motion referred to the previous question erroneously and she therefore asked for the following amendment to be made:</p> <p><i>‘Councillor H Bennett gave an introductory speech outlining reasons for proposing the Notice of Motion on the Crown Post Office, as detailed on the meeting Agenda at item 101. This Motion was duly seconded by the Deputy Leader.</i></p> <p><i>Following some discussion by Members on the above, it was subsequently agreed that Council wholeheartedly supports the Notice of Motion.’</i></p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

111. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	<p>Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor;• Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Social Services and Health;• Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

112. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made)
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

113. Related Party Transactions 2024-25 for Statement of Accounts

Decision Made	<p>The Deputy Head of Finance presented a report which informed Council of the requirement for Members to formally declare any related party transactions for the 2024-25 financial year by completing the declaration attached at Appendix A, even if it is a nil return, and that this must be completed no earlier than 31 March 2025 and returned by Wednesday 9 April 2025.</p> <p>Following recommendation from Audit Wales, it was suggested that Council were formally informed of their requirement of completing and submitting their annual related party return by the deadline set by the Finance Department; and to ensure that any outstanding related party returns are always pursued promptly. Guidance for this was attached at Appendix B.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the requirement for Members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• formally declare any related party transactions for the 2024-25 financial year;• complete and date the return no earlier than 31 March 2025;• submit the return by Wednesday 9 April 2025.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

114. Fleet Replacement Programme

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which outlined the proposed costs for the replacement of existing council fleet for inclusion in the Capital Programme. It identified the types of vehicles and items of plant and equipment that are scheduled for replacement which are age expired and need to be replaced for operational expediency.</p> <p>The report also sought agreement from Council to approve a capital budget of £1.2 million for inclusion in the capital programme to accommodate the Council's requirements for fleet replacement, which is to be funded from prudential borrowing, and met from service department revenue budgets. She advised that 31 of the 186 vehicles in the BCBC fleet are now identified as needing to be replaced alongside replacement plant and equipment during 2025-26 at a cost of circa £1.2m.</p> <p>A Member asked how of the fleet would be British made. The Corporate Director Communities did not have the exact information to hand but could provide this following the meeting. She added however that where possible BCBC will always endeavor to source British made goods and services</p> <p>A Member asked why we were not using our own capital reserves to fund this , rather than borrowing. The Deputy Head of Finance stated that much of our capital reserves were already committed to other schemes over the next financial year or two and therefore would not be viable to draw from for this level of funding.</p> <p>A Member asked in relation to ULEV and what the capacity was to make the switch to these vehicles. The Corporate Director Communities stated that we want to move to this particularly to align with our climate change goals, however not all fleets were suitable for this change at the current stage.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved a capital budget of £1.2 million be included in the capital programme, to be funded from prudential borrowing, to enable the Fleet Replacement Programme to continue.</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

115. Capital Support For The Grand Pavilion Porthcawl Project

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which requested that Council revise the capital programme to include an anticipated capital payment to be made to BCBC by Welsh Government (WG) upon completion of the new Owners Agreement to support the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl project.</p>
---------------	--

	<p>She explained that the new Owners Agreement for Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area includes a shared title arrangement for Salt Lake and Hillsboro North resulting, in BCBC and WG jointly owning this land, in line with the amendment to the original longstanding Owners Agreement for Sandy Bay. Pursuant to the terms of the new Owners Agreement, a payment of £4m will be made to BCBC from Welsh Government, when the Owners Agreement completes. Further details were at section 3 of the report. The Corporate Director Communities stressed that if the transaction does not complete as anticipated, or Council does not approve the allocation, Page 29 then the contract for the Grand Pavilion will not be awarded. In this case the Council would risk losing the £18m LUF funding and the site becoming stalled.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the information within the report relating to both the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area Owners Agreement and the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl project costs.• Agreed that, upon the completion of the Owners Agreement, to revise the capital programme to include additional funding of £3,867,125 million to support the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl project.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

116. Independent Remuneration Panel For Wales Annual Report 2025-26

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which advised Council of the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) in respect of the level and range of remuneration the Authority must make available to its elected members for the 2025-2026 municipal year. Council was asked to approve and adopt the determinations of the Panel, approve the posts who will received a senior/civic salary as agree the revised Scheme of Remuneration effective from 1 April 2025</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council noted the Annual Report for 2025-2026 and approved:</p> <p>a) The adoption of the relevant Determinations of the Panel contained within the Annual Report (attached as Appendix 1);</p>
---------------	--

	<p>b) Those posts (shown in the revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration at Schedule 1 of Appendix 2) who will receive a senior / civic salary;</p> <p>c) The revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration (Appendix 2) and for it to become effective from 1 April 2025;</p> <p>d) That the Members' Schedule of Remuneration be updated with any changes subsequently made by Council at the Annual Meeting of Council or during the 2025-2026 municipal year.</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

117. Pay Policy Statement - 2025/26

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy stated that as this item related to Chief Officers, all relevant officers left the meeting during this item.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources presented a report which sought Council approval for the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/2026. This is in response to legislative requirements and to provide openness and accountability in relation to how the Council rewards its staff.</p> <p>The updated Pay Policy Statement for approval was attached at Appendix 1 which included the NJC pay scales as well as the JNC pay scales.</p> <p>A Member asked in relation to 10.4.1 and 10.4.7 of the appendix it had personal information relating to the current Chief Executive and asked what the reason for this was. The policy would be out of date quickly should it be approved.</p> <p>The Group Manager - Human Resources and Organisational Development agreed to remove the name of the Chief Executive, however the Pay Policy Statement report was published at a point in time where the post itself was relevant to include.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader stated that the trade union negotiations had taken many months to complete and asked what the impact of this had been to the lower earners who rely so heavily on accurate pay for any benefits they may receive.</p>
---------------	--

	<p>The Group Manager - Human Resources and Organisational Development agreed that for staff as well as the Payroll service it would be beneficial if agreements were far sooner. The impact on staff would be great as there would have been a number of months worth of backdated pay which would not reflect accurately their actual pay.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader urged trade unions to begin and settle the negotiations earlier to ensure that staff were able to receive their new pay on time with minimal detriment.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 attached as Appendix 1.</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

118. Revised Contract Procedure Rules

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought approval for an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to Council Functions as set out at paragraph 3.2 of this report; 1.1.2 note the revised Contract Procedure Rules (attached as Appendix 1) will take effect from 1st April 2025 subject to Cabinet’s approval of them on 11th March 2025; 1.1.3 note that the Constitution will be amended to incorporate the revised Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) approved the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to Council functions as set out in paragraph 3.2;(ii) noted that the revised Contract Procedure Rules attached as Appendix 1 will take effect from 1st April 2025 subject to Cabinet’s approval of them on 11th March 2025;(iii) noted that the Constitution will be amended to incorporate the revised Contract Procedure Rules.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

119. Information Reports For Noting

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which informed Council of Information Reports for noting that have been published since its last scheduled meeting.</p> <p>The reports were detailed at section 3 of the report for noting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council acknowledged the publication of the reports referred to in paragraph 3.1 of this report.</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

120. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Councillor Heidi Bennett to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment – Response circulated to Members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked by Cllr Heidi Bennett</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

121. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Gary Haines

Decision Made	<p>Councillors Gary Haines outlined his Notice of Motion, the wording of which was as follows:</p> <p>Motion for the Return of Crown Estate Revenues to the Welsh Government</p> <p>This motion is submitted in recognition of Wales’ right to control and benefit from its own natural wealth, ensuring that the economic and social well-being of its citizens is prioritised.</p>
---------------	---

	<p>This Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognises that the Crown Estate in Wales generates significant revenue from Welsh natural resources, including offshore wind, marine resources, and land holdings.2. Notes that revenue from the Crown Estate in Wales is currently collected and managed by the UK Treasury, with profits allocated to the UK Government.3. Acknowledges that Scotland has successfully secured the devolution of Crown Estate revenues, ensuring that income generated from Scottish assets is reinvested in Scotland's economy and communities.4. Believes that the revenue generated from Welsh Crown Estate assets should be returned to the Welsh Government to ensure that it is reinvested in social and economic development within Wales.5. Calls upon the UK Government to devolve Crown Estate revenues to the Welsh Government, enabling direct investment in essential public services, housing, renewable energy projects, and economic opportunities for communities across Wales.6. Urges the Welsh Government to advocate for the return of these funds and develop a strategic framework for their use in addressing social needs, alleviating poverty, and supporting sustainable growth in Wales. <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support all measures that seek the devolution of the Crown Estate in Wales.2. Call upon the UK Government to engage in meaningful discussions regarding the fair distribution of revenues generated from Wales' natural resources. <p>Members debated the motion and it was moved and seconded following an amendment to point 5.</p> <p>Members also agreed for the Leader to write to the First Minister to further engage with the treasury and liaise with UK and Scottish Government to gain a greater understanding of governance structures required and financial consequences of the devolution of the Crown Estate. However Cllr Jonathan Pratt did not support the amendment regarding devolution and wished for this to be placed on record.</p>
--	---

RESOLVED: The amended motion was agreed as follows:

Motion for the Return of Crown Estate Revenues to the Welsh Government

This motion is submitted in recognition of Wales' right to control and benefit from its own natural wealth, ensuring that the economic and social well-being of its citizens is prioritised.

This Council

1. Recognises that the Crown Estate in Wales generates significant revenue from Welsh natural resources, including offshore wind, marine resources, and land holdings.
2. Notes that revenue from the Crown Estate in Wales is currently collected and managed by the UK Treasury, with profits allocated to the UK Government.
3. Acknowledges that Scotland has successfully secured the devolution of Crown Estate revenues, ensuring that income generated from Scottish assets is reinvested in Scotland's economy and communities.
4. Believes that the revenue generated from Welsh Crown Estate assets should be returned to the Welsh Government to ensure that it is reinvested in social and economic development within Wales.
5. Calls upon the UK Government to devolve Crown Estate revenues to the Welsh Government, enabling direct investment in essential public services.
6. Urges the Welsh Government to advocate for the return of these funds and develop a strategic framework for their use in

This Council resolves to:

1. Support all measures that seek the devolution of the Crown Estate in Wales.
2. Call upon the UK Government to engage in meaningful discussions regarding the fair distribution of revenues generated from Wales' natural resources.

	3. Call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the First Minister to further engage with the treasury and liaise with UK and Scottish Government to gain a greater understanding of governance structures required and financial consequences of the devolution of the Crown Estate.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

122. Notice of Motion Proposed By Councillor Jane Gebbie, Deputy Leader

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Jane Gebbie outlined her Notice of Motion, the wording of which was as follows:</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The significant increase in need for emergency food in Bridgend County, with Bridgend County Foodbank providing more than 8,000 emergency food parcels in the last 12 months, a 21% increase on the same period in 2018/19.• 62% of beneficiaries of Bridgend County Foodbanks are households with children and 28% of those are families with 3 or more children. This demonstrates that a higher proportion of households with children are experiencing hunger, poverty and hardship.• That around 5 in 6 low income households on Universal Credit are going without at least one essential like food, a warm home or toiletries [1], which shows that the social security system is not providing people with enough to afford the essentials.• That 9.3 million people in the UK face hunger and hardship, meaning their household is more than 25% below the Social Metrics Commission poverty line. This represents one in seven people in the UK, and one in five children. Without action, a further 425,000 people are projected to face hunger and hardship by 2026/27 [2].
---------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council resolves:- To support the promotion of the campaign by Bridgend County Foodbank, Trussell and Joseph Roundtree Foundation to introduce an Essentials Guarantee[3] , a law which would ensure that the basic rate of social security support is always enough to afford the essentials that we all need to live.- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee.- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Chris Elmore MP for Bridgend, Stephen Kinnock MP for Aberafan Maesteg and Chris Bryant MP for Rhondda and Ogmore, to request that they write to both the Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, as well as Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions, in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee. <p>[1] Joseph Rowntree Foundation: https://www.jrf.org.uk/social-security/guarantee-our-essentials-reforming-universal-credit-to-ensure-we-can-all-afford-the</p> <p>[2] The Cost of Hunger and Hardship, Trussell, 2024: https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/publications/report/the-cost-of-hunger-and-hardship</p> <p>[3] https://www.trussell.org.uk/support-us/guarantee-our-essentials</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The motion was debated and an amendment was requested by Cllr Steven Bletsoe which was seconded. The amended motion read as follows:</p> <p>The Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To support the promotion of the campaign by Bridgend County Foodbank, Trussell and Joseph Roundtree Foundation to introduce an Essentials Guarantee[3] , a law which would ensure that the basic rate of social security support is always enough to afford the essentials that we all need to live.
--	--

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee.- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Chris Elmore MP for Bridgend, Stephen Kinnock MP for Aberafan Maesteg and Chris Bryant MP for Rhondda and Ogmore, to request that they write to both the Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, as well as Chancellor and Secretary to the Department for Work and Pensions, in favour of the introduction of an Essentials Guarantee.- To write to the First Minister and the relevant Cabinet secretary in Welsh Government to ask for their backing of the Leader of the Council on the above requests.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

123. Urgent Items

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2025

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

The meeting closed at 18:00.