

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor Colin Davies – Chairperson for the Meeting

GH Haines

Present Virtually

S Aspey

M Lewis

A Wathan

R Williams

Apologies for Absence

F D Bletsoe, P Ford, D T Harrison, J Llewellyn-Hopkins, RL Penhale-Thomas and R J Smith

Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Laura Kinsey Head of Children's Social Care
Jade Jones Children's Commissioning and Sufficiency Lead
Daniel Bolton Group Manager, Provider Services

Richard Hughes Chief Executive, Awen Trust

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Jessica Mclellan Scrutiny Officer

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22. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 17 January 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

23. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the recommendations below, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 1. The Committee requested that the following reports be added to their FWP: a. Support for Care Leavers (including input from Employability and Housing); and b. Early Intervention, Prevention and Edge of Care Services. 2. The Committee requested that the draft Library Strategy be added to the Committee's FWP as a Pre-Decision item following the consultation in the Autumn.
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

24. Library and Cultural Services

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:
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	<p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee expressed concern that many residents already feel that their local libraries are under constant threat of closure and that the public engagement documentation detailing proposed changes and more centralised community hubs may lead to further public perception that the closure of their local library is likely. The Committee therefore recommended that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. an additional option: retaining existing provision, be added to the question, '<i>What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding the proposed changes to library services?</i>'; andb. the key marketing message for the consultation should focus on the statement within the Introduction of the engagement documentation: '<i>We hope this strategy will centre around a vision of expanding community hubs.</i>' <p>Additional Information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The Committee requested confirmation of the dates and timescales of the consultation and of dates when Officers intend to present to community groups and residents, as offered by the Corporate Director, allowing Members the opportunity of attending where possible.3. The Committee requested further information regarding the application process for money from the Integrated Community Hub Fund, highlighting how it may be particularly useful at Aberkenfig library.4. The Committee discussed Pontycymmer Library which Members felt was not being accessed to its full potential and discussed the use of its former home at Blaengarw Workman's Hall. <p>Members were advised that Awen Advisory Board would be meeting at the Blaengarw Workman's Hall to discuss how to make best use of the building on a longer term sustainable basis and the Committee requested feedback on the outcomes from the meeting.</p>
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

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25. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

26. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as it relates to information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information). Following the application of the public interest test, the Committee resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private and the public were excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

27. Exempt Report - Children and Family Services Placement Commissioning Strategy 2025-2030

Decision Made	This item was exempt.
Date Decision Made	13 March 2025

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

The meeting closed at 13:28.

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