

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025 AT 11:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

Present Virtually

RJ Collins
I M Spiller

H Griffiths
T Thomas

D M Hughes
AJ Williams

J Llewellyn-Hopkins
E D Winstanley

Apologies for Absence

Angela Clarke

Registered Representative – Church in Wales

Becca Avci

Welsh in Education Plan Co-ordinator

Invitees/ Registered Representatives:

Councillor Martyn Jones

Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services

Lindsay Harvey
Gaynor Thomas
Deborah Exton
Justin Kingdon
Jason Burton
Stephanie Thomas

Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
School Programme Manager
Deputy Head of Finance
Group Manager Corporate Landlord
Principal Architectural Assistant
Early Years and Childcare Team Manager

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Headteachers:

Adam Raymond
Delyth Davies
Mike Stephens

Headteacher of Pencoed Primary School
Headteacher of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr
Headteacher of Porthcawl Comprehensive School

Officers:

Kelly Watson
Meryl Lawrence
Stephen Griffiths

Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer

Declarations of Interest

AJ Williams
JPD Blundell
H Griffiths
E. D. Winstanley
I.M. Spiller

Personal – Item 4 - Chair of Governors at Coety Primary School
Personal – Item 4 – Governor at Bryntirion Comprehensive School
Personal – Item 4 – Chair of Governors at Ffaldau Primary School and Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
Personal – Item 4 - Governor at Afon-y-Felin and Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr Primary Schools
Personal – Item 4 – Children at Bryntirion Comprehensive School

67. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 dated 16 January 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	31 March 2025

68. School Modernisation

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations: Recommendations: 1. The Committee acknowledged the need to be mindful of if its own role in monitoring, managing and mitigating school modernisation projects on behalf of the local authority, so that projects are delivered on time and on budget and requested that a strategic and forward-looking report be submitted for consideration by Members at a future meeting, that would include the following: ▪ An audit of the condition of all schools in Bridgend County. ▪ An analysis of the lessons learned from the school modernisation projects that have happened or in the process of being planned and built, including the impact of wider political and economic forces. The report would need to consider such issues as the role and value of price caps; risk management and mitigation, including the impact of ecological ones on project timing and costs; procurement; land acquisition; the impact of design changes to projects; and project management and oversight, especially in terms of the contribution made by Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board. ▪ The future demography of the County Borough, and the impact of new and proposed housing developments, and the potential knock-on impact on school catchment areas and pupil numbers. ▪ The future of school modernisation and project finance in Wales. 2. The Committee recommended that given the significant challenges of the population growth in the County in line with the new developments within the Local Development Plan and that Bridgend is a strategic growth area equidistant between Cardiff and Swansea, there is a need to address issues of future school development with the Welsh Government, in particular in the first instance, issues about flexibility in planning for prospective pupil numbers, and the future of Welsh Government programmes and finance for school modernisation need to be raised and discussed.
Date Decision Made	31 March 2025

69. Information Report - Quarter 3 Performance 2024-25

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee considered the content of the Quarter 3 Performance 2024-25 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 3 2024-25 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter 3 2024-25 within the remit of the Committee and had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the Committee's Forward Work Programme report.
Date Decision Made	31 March 2025

70. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee acknowledged that following an Audit Wales Recommendation made in their report on Decision-Making Arrangements in Bridgend County Borough Council in September 2024, the Forward Work Programme (FWP) will be strengthened to be more forward-looking, in consultation with the Chairperson to align with the Cabinet FWP as well as referrals from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee and maximise opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny. 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. The Committee requested that the following be included in the scope of the report on Pupil Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance to be considered by Members at the meeting 8 May: • An update on Keeping Learners Safe including, if appropriate, any update on the proposed working group set up by the Cabinet Member regarding Pupil safety (conclusions, if any at this stage, or some clarity about the membership and workings). • The impact of the waiting list for specialist provision on challenging behaviour and exclusions at
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	mainstream schools. The Committee requested that the following be included in the scope of a report to be considered by Members at a meeting early in 2025/26 Forward Work Programme: • Individual Development Plans. • Additional Learning Needs. • Specialist Provision. The Committee requested that plans for the submission of the following reports and member briefings be agreed and presented in a future iteration of the FWP: • School improvement plans – Meeting at the start of 2026. • School performance - Estyn reports – Member Briefing – To include school-level detail. • School deficits –in the form of a report to the committee or a Member Briefing.
Date Decision Made	31 March 2025

71. Urgent Matters

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	31 March 2025

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

The meeting closed at 13:39.