

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

H T Bennett
RJ Collins
S Easterbrook
RM Granville
M Jones
T Thomas
I Williams

A R Berrow
HJ David
M J Evans
GH Haines
W J Kendall
JH Tildesley MBE
E D Winstanley

JPD Blundell
C Davies
N Farr
M L Hughes
J E Pratt
A Ulberini-Williams
T Wood

E L P Caparros
P Davies
J Gebbie
D M Hughes
I M Spiller
A Wathan

Present Virtually

S Aspey
C L C Davies
D T Harrison
RL Penhale-Thomas
AJ Williams

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

S J Bletsoe
W R Goode
M R John
JC Spanswick
MJ Williams

N Clarke
S J Griffiths
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
G Walter

Apologies for Absence

P W Jenkins, M Lewis R Williams and the Corporate Director - Communities

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

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Michael Pitman
Alex Rawlin
Mark Shephard
Kelly Watson
Zak Shell
Oscar Roberts

Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Head Of Operations - Community Services
Business Administrative Apprentice – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Cllr E Winstanley – Personal – Item 6, as she is involved through her work in several projects listed under Objective 1 of that report.

130. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meetings of the Council dated 26 th February 2025 and 12 th March 2025 be approved as true and accurate records.
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

131. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor;• Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services and Health;• Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

132. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
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Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

133. Corporate Plan Review for 2025/26

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Corporate Policy & Performance Manager, was to outline an updated Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2025/26 for Council approval.</p> <p>Councillors posed a question on the timing of the report given possible changes in staffing levels. This question was addressed by the Corporate Policy & Performance Manager and the Deputy Leader - Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2025/26 in Appendix 1;• Approved the performance indicator targets for 2025/26 in Appendix 2. <p>Council further thanked the Corporate Policy & Performance Manager and their team for their work on the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

134. Scrutiny Review

Decision Made	<p>The purpose of this report, presented by the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, was to provide Council with an update on work following Audit Wales' recommendations arising from their report on BCBC's decision making arrangements published in October 2024, to allow members to consider new Scrutiny arrangements, and to seek Council's approval of the Scrutiny Protocol following a Scrutiny Review undertaken in 2024.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to delete the suggestion of an additional remunerated chair position outlined in the recommendations, but some members disagreed as this decision would result in a dilution of current salary</p>
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remunerations among political groups.

Members shared reservations on the Wales Audit Office's recommendation to extend Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes to six months in the future, citing scheduling of items to future meeting uncertainties and any potential inaccuracies this may bring.

Councillors posed questions on:

- Looking at other Councils' practices for Forward Work Programmes, as a benchmarking exercise.
- Also looking to reduce time limits for Overview and Scrutiny meetings, subject to the Chairpersons agreement.
- The role Councillors not in political groups will have on the proposed new scrutiny committees.
- When changes suggested or recommended in the report or during debate would likely be made.
- The process regarding call-ins to Scrutiny Committees and the ownership of these call-ins among Scrutiny Committees.

These questions were responded to by the Democratic Services Manager, the Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy and the Leader of the Council.

The Leader confirmed that if any additional Chairperson was remunerated following the Scrutiny Review, then as there was no additional budget for this, any re-allocation of Senior Salary allowances would be derived from that which is currently allocated to Committee Chairpersons as part of allocated senior allowances, with any adjustments reflecting workload associated with that particular Committee alongside any other potential factors.

A vote took place on recommendation 3 of the report, the result of which was as follows:-

For	Against
26	20

Members agreed to rename the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees to better mirror the Directorates they support. Members unanimously considered that the Chairperson of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee should not be a member of the majority group of the Council. Members were generally supportive of any Committee meeting not exceeding 3 hours, though adding that the Committee Chairperson would make decisions regarding this, as the members who preside over meetings

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the progress made in relation to the Audit Wales recommendations as part of their ‘Review of Decision-Making Arrangements’ in Bridgend;• Noted the structure options presented within this report and the recommendations of COSC and approve option 2 as the agreed scrutiny structure for implementation following the Annual Meeting of Council on 14 May 2025;• Determined that an additional remunerated Chair is required and agreed in principle with a final decision to be made at the AGM, following necessary amendments to the Schedule of Remuneration, noting that this will be met from the existing Member budget, which will result in the removal of other senior salary allowances;• Approved a change to the membership of each OVSC to 14 Members to take effect as part of the agreed scrutiny structure;• Approved the Scrutiny Protocol, attached at Appendix 2 for subsequent circulation and signing by all Scrutiny Members, the Executive and Corporate Management Board;• Noted that a report will be presented to the AGM seeking approval to amend the Constitution to incorporate the revised Terms of Reference, Membership and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as a result of the revised structure, noting that COSC will now lead on Budget Scrutiny. <p>Council also thanked the Officers for their contributions in the preparation of the report and in the creation of options for Council to consider, as well as the Overview and Scrutiny team for the work they contribute at meetings they support.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

135. Notice of Motion Proposed by

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Ian Williams outlined his Notice of Motion, the wording of which was as illustrated on the meeting agenda.</p> <p>Councillors posed a question on whether Cllr Williams had referred to signing up to the Welsh Government declaration. This question was responded to by the Member</p>
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	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> Members debated the motion and it was moved and seconded following an amendment to add a further supplement to the Motion:</p> <p>That this Council recognises the recent Auditor General's comments about the limitations of the current approaches to biodiversity decline and Welsh Government's intention to change environmental law so that biodiversity action is prioritised. Accordingly, this Council commits to work proactively with Welsh Government to achieve the new targets for the protection and restoration of biodiversity, which is expected to be included in new environmental legislation so that we can address the ongoing Nature Emergency which was declared by Senedd in 2021.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

136. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	9 April 2025

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

The meeting closed at 17:30.