

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2025 AT 10:00**

**Present**

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson for the Meeting

GH Haines

**Present Virtually**

HJ David  
AJ Williams

M L Hughes  
E D Winstanley

RL Penhale-Thomas

T Thomas

**Apologies for Absence**

F D Bletsoe, RM Granville, S J Griffiths and A Ulberini-Williams

Councillor Jane Gebbie, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Paul Davies, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, Councillor Eugene Caparros, Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share) and Kelly Watson, Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy.

**Invitees:**

Councillor John Spanswick  
Councillor Hywel Williams  
Councillor Martyn Jones  
Councillor Neelo Farr  
Councillor Melanie Evans

Leader  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance  
Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing  
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

Mark Shepherd  
Carys Lord  
Lindsay Harvey  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale

Chief Executive  
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change  
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director - Communities

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

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Alex Rawlin  
Kate Pask  
Martin Morgans  
Paul Miles

Corporate Policy and Performance Manager  
Corporate Performance Manager  
Head of Partnership Services  
Group Manager – Human Resources and Organisational Development

### Officers:

Meryl Lawrence  
Jessica Mclellan

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny  
Scrutiny Officer

### Declarations of Interest

Cllr Amanda Williams – item 4 – personal – as a Community Councillor for Coity Higher Community Council who are looking to asset transfer premises from Bridgend County Borough Council.

Cllr Elaine Winstanley – items 4 and 5 – personal - as a governor of two schools mentioned in the schools modernisation process, was involved in delivering activities for 'Food and Fun' as mentioned in the report and as an employee of AWEN cultural trust who manage the Grand Pavilion and library service mentioned in the report.

Cllr Tim Thomas – item 6 - personal – engaged with the UK Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Scottish Government regarding Disabled Facilities Grants.

## **148. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 15 and 28 January 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**149. Quarter 3 Performance 2024/25**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members discussed staff sickness and the support offered and that some Governing Bodies offered online access to a GP for private prescriptions as part of their staff wellbeing package of support. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the provision of this option to Council staff be explored and liaising with colleagues in schools where the offer has been made for details.</li> <li>2. Members referred to the issue of not having access to documents available on the staff intranet, such as Directorate Business Plans, and the Committee <b>recommended</b> that the possibility of integrating a link to the information onto the Members' Portal be expedited pending a longer term testing of the basic working model allowing access via the intranet.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Additional Information</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The Committee acknowledged that the 100% target for staff completing mandatory e-learning was unrealistic for a number of reasons and noted that a review was underway to try and create a more intelligent/prioritised approach to mandatory e-learning. However, the Committee <b>requested</b> data demonstrating the contributory factors preventing the target of 100% from being achieved.</li> </ol> <p>In addition, the Committee <b>requested</b> that the narrative in the Performance Dashboard reflect that the figure does not include staff absence for sickness, maternity or paternity leave etc. pending a potential amendment of the target following the review underway.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The Committee <b>requested</b> an update regarding the planning application status relating to the school modernisation of Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger.</li> <li>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> information regarding the Energy Performance Certificate assessment procedure for public sector buildings in the County Borough and their energy ratings.</li> <li>6. Members referred to the development of the Future Waste Services Model bringing the service in-</li> </ol>
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	<p>house, and <b>requested</b> that regular Member Briefings/updates be provided to ensure Members are appraised of progress and to allow them to manage expectations of residents.</p> <p>7. With reference to Performance Indicator: CED5, '<i>Percentage of first call resolutions</i>', of enquiries which did not result in a first call resolution, the Committee <b>requested</b> information regarding how long they remained in the system and how many calls they took to resolve.</p> <p>8. With reference to Performance Indicator (PI): DRW6.1.1, '<i>Percentage of overall BCBC budget reductions achieved</i>', the Committee expressed concern as to whether the annual target of £13,045m and variance of £1.441m included the 3% efficiency saving against Schools Delegated Budgets (£3.441m) and the schools' deficit balances of £4.989m. The Committee <b>requested</b> a written summary breakdown of the figures to include a demonstration of what was anticipated, what is included and what was the deficit brought forward into this year.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**150. Corporate Plan Review For 2025/26**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation for additional information:</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>9. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the proposed merging of the following aims and performance indicators be reconsidered recognising that they are both large and distinct areas, and as such, should remain separated as per the current Wellbeing Objectives:</p> <p>a. WBO 1 – Aim: 'Regenerate our town centres and Valleys'</p> <p>b. WBO 4 – PIs: 'Homelessness prevention' and 'Days to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants'.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**151. Update And Position Statement For The Disabled Facilities Grant Service**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>10. The Committee referred to the comment from the Governance and Audit Committee that the “only way more jobs could be delivered was with additional capital” and that predictions from the Wales Audit Office regarding the demographic and ageing population indicated that the demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) was only likely to increase.</p> <p>The Committee therefore <b>recommended</b> that during the Committee’s early discussions regarding the budget, there be a deep dive into the subject of DFGs and the considerations above.</p> <p><b><u>Additional Information</u></b></p> <p>11. The Committee <b>requested</b> a breakdown of DFGs by adult and children's cases and <b>requested</b> that future reports regarding DFGs also set out the figures in this way.</p> <p>12. The Committee <b>requested</b> a breakdown of DFGs by housing tenure acknowledging Officers’ comments that Registered Social Landlords are responsible for their adaptations.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**152. Scrutiny Review**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report, the Committee made the following recommendation and request:</p>
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	<p>13. Of the options presented within the report, the Committee unanimously favoured and <b>recommended</b> option 2; to retain 4 Scrutiny Committees with the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three formally themed Committees: 'Education, Social Services and Communities' or similar. This was on the condition that the caveats contained in the report were included in that the names and remits of the Committees would not preclude a Committee from scrutinising an item in its entirety should any aspect stray slightly into the remit of another.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed matters such as the length of meetings and agendas, engagement of Members, the number of meetings, resources and the workload and numbers of Chairs, but agreed that these matters would need to be discussed further at Council and in relative Political Group meetings. Members <b>requested</b> that the Committee Structure Options and the Scrutiny Protocol be shared with all Political Group Members by Chairs and Group Leaders, as well as the 3 Independent Members not affiliated with any Group, as soon as possible before the meeting of Council.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**153. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report the Committee approved its Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the recommendations below, noted the FWPs for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendix C, D and E, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and acknowledged the Regulatory reports recently report to the Governance and Audit Committee:</p> <p><b><u>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC)</u></b></p> <p>1. The Committee <b>requested</b> that the following reports be added to their FWP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Staff Survey (including responses, outcome of staff focus groups and future staff surveys); and</li><li>b. Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2025-26.</li></ul>
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	<p>2. The Committee considered the referral from the Governance and Audit Committee and <b>requested</b> further information regarding the Wales Penalty Processing Partnership before considering whether to add the topic to a Scrutiny FWP. Once the above information had been gathered, the Committee agreed that the proposed scheduling of the Item would be discussed between Scrutiny Chairs with Scrutiny Officers.</p> <p><u>Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (SOSC 1)</u></p> <p>3. The Committee expressed concern that the PI target of 100% relating to the roll-out of individual development plans (IDPs) delivered using the online IDP system had not been achieved (0%) and <b>requested</b> that SOSC 1 consider requesting a report to monitor the situation.</p> <p>4. The Committee explored the possible link between pupil behaviour and permanent exclusions, and support for pupils with additional learning needs and the waiting lists for specialist provision.</p> <p>The Committee therefore <b>requested</b> that the scope of the report regarding Pupil Behaviour scheduled to SOSC 1 on 8 May 2025 include a summary of the draft 5 year plan developed to address the demand on support services, specialist provision and schools.</p> <p><u>Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (SOSC 3)</u></p> <p>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> that a report on the Shared Prosperity Fund be scheduled on the FWP for SOSC 3 as soon as possible.</p> <p>6. The Committee referred to their recommendation made on 16 December 2024 that SOSC 3 consider requesting a report regarding the Council's response to adverse weather/storms. The Committee <b>requested</b> that the scope of that report include detail on the information shared during internal and Local Resilience Forum debrief sessions held following Storm Darragh and any other inclement weather events.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

**154. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	17 March 2025

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

The meeting closed at 14:29.