

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe

C Davies

I Williams

MJ Williams

Present Virtually

N Clarke
G Walter

RJ Collins
J E Pratt

P W Jenkins

W J Kendall

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearn

Invitees:

Councillor Paul Davies

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Janine Nightingale
Zak Shell
Stuart Baldwin

Corporate Director – Communities
Head of Operations – Community Services
Climate Change Response Manager

Officers:

Lucy Beard
Stephen Griffiths

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer – Committees

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Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell – Personal – Item 4 – the report refers to decisions made by Cabinet, some which were made when a Member of Cabinet.

95. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 dated 20 January 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the following comments:</p> <p>Budget Pressures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The decision on the provision of the Future Waste Service had been discussed fully by the Committee and the ongoing role was to monitor the progress of the plan.2. The lease for Bridgend Market was taken out in 1971 by the predecessor local authority, as Bridgend County Borough Council was not established until 1996.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2025

96. Climate Change Response and Decarbonisation Activity Bridgend County Borough

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussion with the Cabinet Member and Officers, the Committee made the following comments and Recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee expressed concern and requested an explanation setting out why the cross-party Member Committee to oversee the Climate Emergency Response Programme, agreed by Cabinet on 30 June 2020, had not been established and instead, that the Subject Overview Scrutiny Committee 3 had been given the remit for Climate Change and Nature and recommended that
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	<p>consideration be given to the cross-party Member Committee being established for the purposes intended.</p> <p>2. The Committee was advised that the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy (the Strategy) was under review and that a report would be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Committee providing detail on what had been accomplished, the achievability of the ambitions and the necessary steps to progress it.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the proposed report but expressed their disappointment that it appeared that some aspects of the plan would not work and therefore were taken no further and their concern that there did not appear to be any delivery or decisive action taken in relation to the Strategy which was already at its halfway stage. The Committee therefore recommended that an action plan be put in place to include detail on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Timescales;- The objectives and achievement attained;- How the public are being engaged and listened to, including the means by which the community are engaged; and- The possibility of an annual engagement day. <p>3. The Committee discussed the impact of river flooding in the Valley areas causing erosion of the riverbank and encroaching onto gardens, fence lines and properties, acknowledged that it was a worrying situation for those affected and recommended that the Council approach Welsh Government to request some safeguarding for those individuals who may be in danger of flooding to their homes and property in the future.</p> <p>4. Members were advised that the expectations arising from the Senedd Climate Committee's Halting and Reversing the Loss of Nature by 2023 report remain unclear as Welsh Government had yet to respond to the recommendations contained within. The Committee recommended that a letter be written to Welsh Government asking when a response is to be expected, in order to provide an understanding of the potential impact and challenges those recommendations could have on local authorities.</p> <p>5. The Committee requested further detail/information regarding the national position, across all 22 Welsh local authorities, setting out their approach to Climate Change and Decarbonisation. The Committee expressed that it was important that Bridgend's Strategy aligns with other local</p>
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	<p>authorities recognising that carbon capture does not stop at boundary lines. In addition, the Committee discussed the existence of strategic development plans for planning large scale properties and queried why there was no equivalent plan for Net Zero Carbon 2030 and recommended that consideration be given to including this in a future report to the Committee.</p> <p>Additional Information</p> <p>6. The Committee requested a copy of the Climate Change Risk Assessment which was undertaken in partnership with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) and highlighted 11 climate risk priority areas across the PSB. The Committee also requested information regarding the actions being taken by the Health Board to respond to the action plan including any works to their buildings within the County Borough to make them more energy efficient.</p> <p>7. The Committee requested further information regarding the Bridgend Local Nature Partnership to include details of its membership, how often it meets and its agenda in order to understand whether it could be used as a key engagement tool.</p> <p><u>Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure</u></p> <p>8. Members discussed Electric Vehicle charging points, how long it took to complete repairs and whose responsibility it was to do so. Whilst the Committee acknowledged that it had been necessary for public bodies to lead the way in installing electric vehicle charging points, there was now an increased demand and need for higher voltage charging points. The Committee therefore requested whether consideration should be given to the Council leaving the market and facilitating the supply by private companies.</p> <p>9. The Committee requested information regarding how much of the £1.4m funding for electric vehicles and infrastructure had been spent on infrastructure, why the Council was not deriving an income from it and regarding the public charging points commissioned by the Cardiff Capital Region on Council land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Whether there was shared revenue?- Were there possibilities for revenue generation?- Whether capital expenditure to generate revenue been investigated?
Date Decision Made	17 February 2025

97. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>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:</p> <p><u>Maesteg Town Hall</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee requested:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. That the following be included in the scope of the report:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The potential outcomes and risks to the authority had the Council not taken action;- As much detail as possible, demonstrating what led to the increased costs; and- Detail of the initial value of the project and how much the value increased, at what stage and the reasons why.b. That the current and previous Leaders of the Council be invited to attend the meeting at which the report is scheduled.c. That consideration be given to whether the meeting of the Committee to which the report is scheduled, could take place at Maesteg Town Hall, subject to accessibility and its hybrid meeting capabilities.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2025

98. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2025

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

The meeting closed at 6:46pm.