

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2025 AT 14:30**

**Present**

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr  
M J Evans

J Gebbie  
M Jones

HM Williams

P Davies

**Present Virtually**

E L P Caparros

**Apologies for Absence**

None

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Officers:**

Anya Richards  
Oscar Roberts  
Carys Lord  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale  
Kelly Watson  
Lindsay Harvey  
Michael Pitman

Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs  
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services  
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director - Communities  
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy  
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People  
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

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

**485. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 13/05/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**486. Anti Tax Evasion Policy**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Office Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the updated Anti-tax Evasion Policy.</p> <p>She explained that the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25 had been reviewed by the Fraud Investigation Team, alongside officers from Internal Audit and finance, and a number of amendments were made to bring the document up to date to reflect changes as set out in section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked for clarification on how fire authorities ensure they adopt the same anti-tax evasion policy. The Chief Officer for Finance, Housing, and Change responded that as relevant bodies, fire authorities would be expected to have their own policies and procedures.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the updated Anti-tax Evasion Policy.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**487. Fraud Strategy and Framework 2025-26 to 2027-28**

Decision Made	The Chief Office Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2025/26 to 2027/28, attached at Appendix A.
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	<p>She explained that fraud and error are significant challenges for local authorities, with an estimated cost to UK taxpayers of between £55 billion and £81 billion in 2023-2024. She also noted that fraud offenses in England and Wales had increased by 19% in the year ending September 2024.</p> <p>The strategy set out the Council's zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption and outlined the arrangements in place for the prevention, detection, and investigation of fraud.</p> <p>The Leader enquired about the type of fraud that might be occurring in schools. An example was provided whereby school clerk who had been imprisoned for stealing significant amounts of money from a PTA and using a school credit card for personal purchases, clarifying that this was not a Bridgend school, but showed the varying issues that do exist nationally.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2025/26 to 2027/28 attached at Appendix A.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**488. Revenue Budget Outturn 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer, Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which updated Cabinet on the Council's revenue financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2025. The report highlighted a final outturn position of a net underspend of £300,000.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing asked about the process in place for officers when they become aware of potential overspending. The Chief Officer for Finance, Housing, and Change explained that each Chief Officer is responsible for managing their budget and that there are regular monitoring processes in place to identify and address any potential issues.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member Resources asked if the issue of SEN deficits, where some English councils were allowed to keep them off the books, applied to Wales. The Chief Officer for Finance, Housing, and Change confirmed that this scheme did not apply in Wales and that all SEN spending was visible in their reports.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the revenue outturn position for 2024-25</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

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**489. Representation on Outside Bodies, Joint Committees and Cabinet Committees**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought approval for Member appointments to joint committees, cabinet committees, and nominations to outside bodies.</p> <p>She stated that the full list was at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader asked for an amendment to remove the Cabinet Member for Social Services from their position on both the Adoption Panel and the Fostering Panel stating that it was her belief that it was not appropriate for a politically appointed individual to be involved in making determinations on the suitability of potential foster carers or adopters. She argued that such decisions should be made by those with the relevant professional social work training and qualifications.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet appointed the requisite number of Members to the Joint Committees, Cabinet Committees and other outside bodies as listed in Appendix 1, subject to the following change which was agreed by Cabinet:</p> <p>Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel be removed from the report due to the training required for these positions.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**490. School Modernisation Programme - Enlargement of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr - Modification to the Implementation Date**

Decision Made	<p>The Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People presented a report which sought approval to modify the implementation date for the replacement Ysgol Bro Ogwr to September 2027. The report outlined the reasons for the delay, which included ecological issues at the proposed site and significant cost escalations.</p>
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	<p>The Cabinet Member Resources expressed concern about the increasing costs and asked about the potential consequences for the authority. The Sustainable Communities for Learning Team Manager explained that a chartered quantity surveyor had provided cost estimates and they believe the set budget will be sufficient to deliver the scheme by September 2027.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> that Cabinet modified the implementation date of the replacement Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to September 2027.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**491. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**492. Exclusion of the Public**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The following items are not for publication as they contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and/or Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>Following the application of the public interest test the committee resolved pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**493. School Modernisation Programme - Bridgend West Primary Schools**

Decision Made	This decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025

**494. School Modernisation Programme : Heronsbridge School and Harwood House - Procurement**

Decision Made	This decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	24 June 2025