

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 30 JUNE 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 ON MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2025 AT 10:00**

**Present**

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

N Clarke

HJ David

GH Haines

**Present Virtually**

F D Bletsoe  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins  
MJ Williams

H Griffiths  
RL Penhale-Thomas

S J Griffiths  
T Thomas

M L Hughes  
AJ Williams

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Eugene Caparros – Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

**Invitees:**

Councillor John Spanswick  
Councillor Jane Gebbie  
Councillor Hywel Williams  
Councillor Martyn Jones  
Councillor Paul Davies  
Councillor Neelo Farr  
Councillor Melanie Evans

Leader  
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance  
Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing  
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

Carys Lord  
Lindsay Harvey  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale  
Kelly Watson

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

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## CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2025

### Officers:

Rachel Keepins  
Jessica McLellan

Democratic Services Manager  
Scrutiny Officer

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor AJ Williams – Item 5 – Personal – Chair of Governors at Coety Primary School

## **155. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 17 March 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

## **156. Revenue Budget Outturn 2024-25**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  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:  <b>Recommendations:</b>  1. The Committee expressed concern regarding the shortfall for teachers' pay and pensions from the Revenue Support Grant and the impact of late settlements and grant funding and <b>recommended</b> that conversations needed to be boosted on a political level to support additional allocation and multi-year settlements.
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	<p>2. The Committee expressed concern regarding the unexpected storm damage costs arising from Storm Bert and Storm Darragh and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to establishing an earmarked reserve/contingency fund for use in the event of an emergency arising from adverse weather events.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested:</b></p> <p>3. The Committee requested copies of the information regarding the work undertaken around the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) agenda in England and the 2014 Estyn report referred to by the Corporate Director.</p> <p>4. The Committee discussed the impact of redundancies in schools and <b>requested</b> the number of voluntary redundancies for the period reported.</p> <p>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> information regarding the sum of money funding hospital education referred to in Budget Reduction Proposal EDF515.</p> <p>6. The Committee <b>requested</b> an all Member Briefing be provided detailing the specialist hospital provision for learners referred to in point 5 above.</p> <p>7. The Committee <b>requested</b> a Briefing paper outlining the Council's earmarked reserves, their purpose and up to date position as of 31 March 2025.</p> <p>8. The Committee discussed the impact of late grant funding on the overall financial position of the Council and <b>requested</b> clarity on whether the realignment of base budgets had been sufficient to meet the pressures from 2024-25. The Committee also <b>requested</b> information regarding which grants were one-offs and which were ongoing.</p> <p>9. The Committee discussed the shortfall against Bridgend Market due to the identification of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and the subsequent closure of the market and loss of rental income and <b>requested</b> a confidential Briefing be provided to Members regarding the Council's future plans for the Market.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

**157. Scrutiny Budget Working Group**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests of Officers:</p> <p>10. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the first Steering Group set out at Step 2 of Appendix B to the report be scheduled in July but that the remainder of the proposed structure be reconsidered by the Committee at the July meeting after Group Leaders have taken the report to their Groups for discussion.</p> <p>11. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the Deep Dive Group for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate explore the financial contributions from the Health Board as a possible area to offset some of the costs.</p> <p>12. The Committee highlighted the importance of preserving early intervention and preventative services recognising their impact on better outcomes for people and their importance on long term financial stability and <b>recommended</b> that the Scrutiny Budget Deep Dive Groups remain mindful of such.</p> <p>13. The Committee <b>requested</b> that Directors bring all budget options being explored to the Deep Dive Groups.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

**158. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Councillor Tim Thomas be nominated to represent the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

**159. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Nominations**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That the Committee nominated the following Members to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors Huw David, Simon Griffiths and Gary Haines (nominations from the Labour Group);</li><li>• Councillor Tim Thomas (nomination from the Bridgend County Independents Group);</li><li>• Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas (nomination from the Democratic Alliance Group); and</li><li>• Councillor Freya Bletsoe (Substitute Member nominated from the Bridgend County Independents Group to attend the PSB JOSC when one of the five Members are not available).</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

**160. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following amendments, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted that the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Committee <b>requested</b> that a report be added to their FWP regarding the whole-Council response to climate change and the environment and that the scope of the report include information on how the Council manages contingencies for emergency responses, e.g. the impact on the Highways budget due to recent storm damage.</li><li>2. Members referred to the independent review commissioned in Social Services which led to the early intervention and preventative function being transferred from the Education Directorate to the Social Services Directorate and <b>requested</b> a report reviewing the change in structure, highlighting that the importance was to move towards more early intervention and prevention.</li></ol>
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	<p>3. The Committee agreed to the meeting of 11 September being repurposed as a meeting of the Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Director of Social Services Annual Report and Social Services Complaints and Representations report.</p> <p>4. The Committee agreed to the rescheduling of the Digital Strategy to its meeting in July and that the Scrutiny Budget Working Group report also be reconsidered at that meeting. The Committee agreed that the Scrutiny Annual Report be rescheduled to its meeting in October.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

**161. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	30 June 2025

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

The meeting closed at 13:18.