

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 JULY 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 23 JULY 2025 AT 16:00

Present:

Councillor HJ David – Mayor & Chairperson

H T Bennett
Clatworthy
S Easterbrook
RM Granville
M Jones
J E Pratt
JH Tildesley MBE

A R Berrow
RJ Collins
M J Evans
GC Haines
W J Kendall
JC Spanswick
I Williams

JPD Blundell
C Davies
N Farr
D M Hughes
M Lewis
I M Spiller
E D Winstanley

E L P Caparros
P Davies
J Gebbie
M R John
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
T Thomas
T Wood

Present Virtually:

S Aspey
C L C Davies
M L Hughes
A Ulberini-Williams
MJ Williams

F D Bletsoe
P Ford
RM James
G Walter
R Williams

S J Bletsoe
S J Griffiths
RL Penhale-Thomas
A Wathan

N Clarke
D T Harrison
R J Smith
AJ Williams

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Laura Griffiths
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Jake Morgan
Martin Morgans
Michael Pitman
Kelly Watson

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Chief Executive
Interim Head of Operations - Community Services
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

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

166. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors WR Goode, H Griffiths, H Williams and PW Jenkins.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

167. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	<p>The following declarations of personal interest were made by Members:-</p> <p>Councillor H Bennett – Agenda item 6, as a member of the Public Service Board on behalf of her employer.</p> <p>Councillor J Pratt – Agenda item 12, as a member of Porthcawl Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor JP Blundell – Agenda item 7, as a member of a School Governing Body that is mentioned in the report.</p> <p>Councillor E Winstanley – Agenda item 7, as her employer is in charge of the Maesteg Town Hall and the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion and due to the fact she is a Community Councillor.</p> <p>Councillor I Williams – Agenda item 7, as a school governor at Oldcastle Primary and Brynteg Comprehensive Schools. Agenda item 12, as a member of Bridgend Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor T Thomas – Agenda item 7, as he dealt with Welsh Government on the subject of Empty Homes through his employer.</p> <p>The following declarations of prejudicial interest were made by Members/Officers.</p> <p>Councillor M Evans – Agenda item 7, as a Community Governor at Croesty Primary and Pencoed Comprehensive Schools.</p> <p>Councillor Amanda Williams – Agenda item 7, as Chairperson of the Board of Governors at Coety Primary School.</p> <p>Chief Executive – Agenda item 9, as his position is referenced to in the report.</p> <p>Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Corporate Policy – Agenda item 9, as her position is referenced to in the report.</p>
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	All the above Members/Officers left the meeting whilst the item they had declared a prejudicial interest in were being considered.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

168. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 25 June 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

169. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following dignitaries (no decisions required or made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor;• Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

170. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (no decisions required or made).
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

171. Healthy Travel Charter

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to update Council on the work of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) on a Healthy Travel Charter.</p> <p>The report confirmed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) had developed a Healthy Travel Charter to bring about far-reaching positive impacts on both health and the environment.• The Charter was formerly signed at the July 2025 Public Services Board meeting.• An Active Travel User Group has been involved in the work from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and can be further expanded to take the Charter forward and ensure continuity.• The Corporate Director - Communities is the lead officer for BCBC in relation to the Charter <p>A Member asked why there is not more cycle parking available currently within Council buildings.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member – Climate Change and the Environment ensured that he would actively look into this matter further outside of the meeting.</p> <p>A Member raised the point that feedback from Clubs and Associations and cyclists per se, suggested that a number of cycling lanes were not connected to each other and therefore were a little disjointed at certain locations.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member – Climate Change and the Environment reassured Council by confirming that the Active Travel User Group was addressing issues such as that immediately above, with assistance in the form of funding from Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Leader added that the Healthy Travel Charter was a wider document that did not just concentrate on cycling, but other forms of transport including walking and using other methods of public transport to promote more healthy forms of travel.</p> <p>He further added that the Charter, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, focused on changes that can be made to the way we work as an organisation that can enable more active healthy travel and that some of the objectives included in the Charter were actively being addressed to ensure these goals are achieved.</p> <p>A Member whilst welcoming vehicle charging points in Bridgend town centre, noted that these were not of</p>
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	<p>the 'super fast charging' category and therefore she asked if any more provided could be of this type, so that vehicles could be charged up in a shorter time.</p> <p>The Leader advised that this could be considered, adding however, that there would be an increased cost connected with the installation of such faster charging models.</p> <p>A Member concluded debate on this item, by stating that charging points should be more widely available in places of need and/or where it is apparent they are used more, in order to make the most of funding received from Welsh Government for the provision of these charges.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>(1) That Council noted the content of this update report.</p> <p>(2) That Council debated and considered how to deliver the proposed activities contained within the Charter (Appendix 1)</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

172. Capital Programme Outturn 2024-25 and Quarter 1 Update 2025-26

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change submitted a report on the above, a summary of which was as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an update on the capital programme outturn position for 2024-25, the quarter 1 spend and projected spend for 2025-26 as at 30 June 2025, the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2034-35 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26.• Appendix A to the report, reflected the budgets and spend for the individual schemes in 2024-25.• Appendix B showed the budgets, spend to date and projected year end spend as at 30 June 2025 for the individual schemes in 2025-26.• Appendix C stated the revised capital programme for 2025-26 to 2033-35.• While Appendix D provided details of the actual Prudential and other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2025-26. <p>Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Financial Procedure Rules required that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. The report fulfilled that requirement.</p>
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	<p>The Deputy Leader in the absence of the relevant Cabinet Member, advised that as a Council, BCBC was continuing to manage a large and ambitious Capital Programme. This could be seen in its investment in schools, highways, economic regeneration, as well as in iconic buildings, such as the Maesteg Town Hall.</p> <p>Officers had accessed £85m to support the local authority's capital spend this year, which equated to around 56% of the total cost of this spend being funded by external means as opposed to BCBC funding.</p> <p>A Member voiced some concern regarding the Capital Programme. He stated that last year in February the Council agreed a programme of over £110m, though it only outturned around half of this amount. He added that basing that on this year's calculations, we could end up delivering even less than this in terms of a percentage, this year.</p> <p>The Leader advised that there were a number of reasons why there had been slippages last year. He assured Council however, that there would be increased vigilance going forward in terms of expenditure in respect of the Capital Programme and the timely completion of the schemes contained therein. There were now monthly Capital Programme Monitoring Programme boards (of which he was a member), and this body would keep a close eye on the various projects that were being put forward as part of the programme with the aim of these being completed both in time and in budget. The total cost committed to the programme was now in the region of £156m, he added. He then gave a resume of some of the schemes that were earmarked within the programme, that would bring huge benefit to and improve facilities within, the County Borough.</p> <p>A Member asked if there was an indicative estimate on the capital investments as detailed, in terms of whether (or not) they were going to be cost revenue positive for the authority, as opposed to being cost negative which, if they were, would in turn put pressures on our revenue budget.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change advised that the various capital and revenue implications were factored into the Council's forward planning for its revenue budget.</p> <p>A Member felt that it would be interesting to benchmark with other local authorities in Wales, to see how we compared with regards to slippage of schemes and to the delivery of these on schedule, as well as comparing the challenges that each authority faced, for example, were they largely the same or different in any way.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change, advised that most local authorities were largely in the same position as BCBC, in terms of the types of challenges they faced with their Capital Programmes.</p>
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	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the Council's Capital Programme Outturn for 2024-25 (Appendix A to the report). Noted the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 1 update to 30 June 2025 (at Appendix B) Approved the revised Capital Programme, noting the slippage into 205-26 of £25.370 million, and approves the virements between schemes and new schemes/additions of £44.485 million to the capital programme (Appendix C). Noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and the projected indicators for 2025-26 (Appendix D).
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

173. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024-25

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report, in order to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA’s) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice’ (the TM Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year. • Report the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2023-24. <p>The report outlined the Treasury Management activity for the annual period of 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.</p> <p>The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change confirmed that as at 31 March 2025, the Council had £103.80 million of long term debt, £15.66 million of other long term liabilities and an overall net debt position of £82.71 million.</p> <p>The average interest rate for debt was 4.73% (including Salix borrowing which was interest free). For investments during the year, it was 4.39%.</p> <p>The Council has a manageable maturity structure of borrowing, with its current debt repayable at various points over the next 30 years.</p>
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	<p>The Council is required to set and report against Treasury Management Indicators, details of which were included in Appendix A to the report. These reflected that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year.</p> <p>The Council had also complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management Code and Welsh Government Investment Guidance, advised the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted the treasury management activities for 2024-25 for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.• Also noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the period year ending 31 March 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

174. Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer

Decision Made	<p>The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services presented a report, in order to seek Council approval to appoint the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Returning Officer and the Deputy ERO.</p> <p>At a previous meeting, Council appointed Jake Morgan as the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of the Council. The Council is required to comply with the requirements under the Representation of the People Act 1983, in relation to the appointment of the Council's Returning Officer, and Electoral Registration Officer. These were statutory roles which the Council is obliged to appoint to. These roles are included in the Job Description of the Chief Executive and it is therefore recommended that the new Chief Executive, be formally appointed to undertake these roles.</p> <p>The appointment of a Deputy ERO Electoral Registration Officer was also a function of the Council and is required to ensure that the necessary electoral decisions can be implemented when the ERO is not available. Without such an appointment there is a risk that electors may be disadvantaged. It was therefore recommended that the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy be appointed as the Deputy ERO with full powers, enabling her to act in the incapacity or absence of the ERO as necessary.</p>
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	<p>The Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services added, that to allow for further flexibility, it was proposed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to appoint more deputies and to revoke or vary such appointments as necessary.</p> <p>In light of the debate that ensued at the meeting and a series of questions from Members that were responded to by the Lead Officer, Council agreed not to support Recommendation (3) of the report, ie that Council ‘delegates authority to the Chief Executive to appoint more deputies and to revoke or vary such appointments as necessary.’</p> <p>It was therefore,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Approved the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer. (2) Further approved the appointment of the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

175. Appointments to the Standards Committee

Decision Made	<p>The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to advise Council of two Independent Member (co-opted) appointments to the Standards Committee, as a result of there being two such member vacancies on the Committee.</p> <p>A member noted the point that a panel of the Standards Committee recommended the appointment of the two Independent Members as referenced to in the report and that the appointments were reported to the full Standards Committee on 22 July 2025.</p> <p>However, he asked if the suitability of any potential candidates should be shared possibly at a higher level, possibly with Council, in light of the fact that members of that Committee sit and make judgements and decisions of sometimes a disciplinary nature, on both County Borough and Town and Community Council members.</p>
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	<p>The Monitoring Officer whilst suggesting that this could be considered further in the future, added that the above process that was followed, was the process as recommended in the appropriate regulations, confirming also that there was County Borough Council representation on both the Appointing Panel and the Standards Committee.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the appointments of Janet Evans and Martyn Daley to the Standards Committee.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

176. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	<p>Councillor Colin Davies to the Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services (response circulated previously to Members).</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Davies which was responded to at the meeting.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

177. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Martin Williams

Decision Made	<p>The Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Williams as detailed at item 12 on the meeting Agenda, subject to his proposed amendment given verbally at the meeting, which was duly seconded and supported by Council was agreed.</p> <p>The amended Motion was as follows:-</p> <p>‘That this Council recognises the challenges that we faced in recruiting operatives to cut grass following the decision to bring it in house and the impact that had on our communities.</p> <p>Under the ethos of working collaboratively we therefore resolve to ask the Cabinet to consider contacting all town and community councils at the earliest opportunity and offer to pay them to carry out the service in</p>
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	their area to support this Authority if they are willing and able, should future challenges to the service be encountered again.'
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

178. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Ian Spiller

Decision Made	That the Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor Spiller as detailed at item 13 on the meeting Agenda, was agreed unanimously by Council.
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

179. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Tim Thomas

Decision Made	<p>A Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Thomas, as detailed as item 14 on the meeting Agenda.</p> <p>An amendment to the Notice of Motion was proposed, duly seconded and following some debate, finally agreed by Council.</p> <p>The Notice of Motion therefore, as amended, was agreed as follows:-</p> <p>'That this Council,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Supports the UK Government in listening to the public and reversing the proposed welfare reforms that would have adversely affected disabled residents across the country, including within Bridgend County Borough.2. Recognises the significant and disproportionate negative impact these welfare changes would have had on the wellbeing, financial security, and dignity of local disabled people and their families.3. Welcomes the Government's decision to reverse these welfare reforms as a positive step in protecting the rights and livelihoods of disabled residents in Bridgend.
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	<p>4. Acknowledges the hard work of disability advocacy groups, campaigners, and residents who have voiced their concerns and influenced this decision.</p> <p>5. 'Calls on the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council to write to the PM, the First Minister, and to continue lobbying our local MP's and MS's to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the continued importance of welfare considerations in future UK government and Welsh Government policies• Emphasise the importance of continued support and protection for disabled residents.• Urge both Governments to continue to engage closely with local Councils, disability organisations, and communities in developing future welfare policies. <p>6. Reaffirms the Council's commitment to supporting disabled residents by ensuring local services are accessible, inclusive, and adequately resourced.'</p>
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

180. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	23 July 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this link

The meeting closed at 18:23.