

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
P Davies

J Gebbie
M Jones

HM Williams

E L P Caparros

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Nimi Chandrasena
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Lindsay Harvey
Michael Pitman
Jonathan Parsons
Adam Provoost

Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer - Support
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
Group Manager Development
Senior Development Planning Officer

517. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	Cllr Melanie Evans
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

518. Declarations of Interest

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

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

519. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the 22/07/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

520. Bridgend Town Centre Access

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which provided Cabinet with an update on the Bridgend Town Centre Access project and sought approval to introduce an 18-month Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) comprising of measures as set out in 1.1 of the report. The following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • How will success be measured • What would cause the ETRO to be revoked or adjusted? • If there's an increase in cyclist/pedestrian interactions, would bikes be banned? • Why was the town center pedestrianized in 2004? • What would officers look for in safety risk assessments for cycling in pedestrian areas? • Will the trial hinder access for emergency vehicles or impact special events? All questions were answered by Officers. The Corporate Director Communities added that any changes to the ETRO would be in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member
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	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet: 1. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to:- (i) pursue an 18-month ETRO for the extension of loading and unloading hours to 11:00 and recommence it after 16:00, with additional flexibility allowed for emergency situations and events; (ii) pursue an 18-month ETRO to permit cycling within the pedestrianised area, subject to the satisfactory completion of the safety risk assessments; (iii) pursue an 18-month ETRO for the conversion of under-utilised taxi bays on Derwen Road to Blue-badge parking bays. 2. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to establish monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) and to modify, suspend or revoke the Order if required, during the experimental period. With the amendment to add “in consultation with the appropriate cabinet member.” 3. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing & Change and Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Electoral, to submit and accept external funding, award and enter into contracts, agreements and other legal documentation on behalf of the Council which is necessary to deliver the measures. 4. Noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet proposing a permanent position in respect of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO); 5. Noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet on Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan projects.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

521. Draft Outdoor Recreation Facilities Supplementary Planning Guidance

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which sought approval to submit the final SPG to Council for adoption. She outlined the key changes made to the SPG following a 6 week public consultation as set out in section 3 of the report.
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	The following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • How will the quality of facilities and equipment be ensured? • the low allocation for allotments (4.6 m² per house) and its impact on food sustainability and future generations • Does the guidance give the council powers to compel developers to hand over play areas to the authority for adoption? The Leader expressed his disagreement with private management companies maintaining open spaces on estates, as it adds extra cost to residents already paying council tax. However, he acknowledged that the Council was limited legally in what it could do. The Cabinet Member Finance highlighted an error in Table 2 of the report and suggested an amendment which stated to ‘start contributions for allotments and local areas for play (LAP) for developments of 11 to 50 dwellings.’ All Cabinet Members were in agreement with this amendment. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet: 1. Noted the contents of this report and the consultation responses received on the draft Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG, together with resultant amendments attached as Appendix 2. 2. Approved presenting the final form Outdoor Recreation Facilities SPG (Appendix 1) to Council to seek its adoption. 3. Amended Table 2 of the report, to start contributions for allotments and local areas for play (LAP) for developments of 11 to 50 dwellings.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

522. Draft Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Guidance

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

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Communities presented a report which sought Cabinet approval to consult publicly on the draft 'Houses in Multiple Occupation' (HMO) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document (Appendix 1). She highlighted the guidance that the SPG provides which were set out in section 3.2 of the report. The following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • Does the authority offer support for residents complaining about antisocial behavior from HMOs, or should this go to the police? • How are HMOs policed after planning consent, especially concerning changes to internal structure? Also, queried why residential care homes are mentioned under HMOs • Will the consultation address the lack of regulation on smaller HMOs (3-5 people) regarding fire doors, sprinklers, etc.? Are these rules retrospective? What is the rationale for the 50-meter rule? The questions were answered by Officers. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet: 1. Approved the draft HMO SPG (Appendix 1) as the basis for a public consultation period of 6 weeks; 2. Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical or factual corrections as necessary prior to public consultation; and 3. Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to undertake the public consultation for a period of 6 weeks and to report the results of the public consultation back to Cabinet for approval and then to send the report to Council and seek adoption of the final HMO SPG.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

523. Treasury Management Quarter 1 Report 2025-26

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report which updated the Cabinet on the treasury management activities for the quarter ending 30 June 2025. She summarised the treasury management activities is shown in the Treasury Management Quarterly report to 30 June 2025 at Appendix A and advised that no long term borrowing had been taken out in the first quarter of 2025-26. The following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • How will rising inflation (above CPI, for local authorities) affect the council's financial position going forward? • How will rising inflation (above CPI, for local authorities) affect the council's financial position going forward? • How is long-term borrowing affected by the liability benchmarking guide? • How does the council's debt compare with other Welsh authorities? • Why is ethical investment not explicitly mentioned in the treasury management strategy? All questions were answered by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet: 1. Noted the treasury management activities for the quarter ending 30 June 2025. 2. Noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

524. Anti-Money Laundering Policy

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

Decision Made	The Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change presented a report on the Anti-Money Laundering Policy (Appendix A) to Cabinet for approval. She advised that the current review makes a number of minor amendments and updates for the UK's exit from the European Union, to require enhanced due diligence for organisations outside of the UK. The report was also approved by the Governance and Audit Committee on 19th June 2025 with no amendments. The Following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • Sought confirmation that the policy review is in line with financial regulations and Brexit's impact. • How many money laundering referrals have been made over the years in Bridgend? All questions were answered by the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the updated Anti-Money Laundering Policy at Appendix A.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

525. Social Services Representations and Complaints Annual Report 2024/25

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for the 2024/25 Annual Report on Social Services Representations and Complaints. She provided an overview of the figures as set out in the table at 3.2 of the report and noted a decline in overall number of the complaints received the last year. She further provided a breakdown of the types of complaints and how they were resolved. The following question was asked by a Cabinet Member: • What were the support mechanisms for vulnerable people?
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	The question was answered by the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Annual Report on Social Services Representations and Complaints for 2024/25.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

526. Delegated Authority Policy

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report which sought approval for the proposed Social Services and Wellbeing Delegated Authority Policy. She explained that the proposed policy at Appendix 1 replaced all previous versions of a Delegated Authority policy used previously by Bridgend County Borough Council's Children and Family Services. The policy set out the areas in which Delegated Authority may apply for children and young people, and the different levels and reasons for those. The following question was asked by Cabinet Member: • Does this Delegated Authority Policy also apply to private foster care providers and could BCBC enforce it An answer was provided by the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the implementation of the Delegated Authority policy into the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate (Appendix 1).
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

527. Outcomes Of Estyn Inspections Of Schools In Bridgend During Spring Term 2025

Decision Made	The Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People presented a report which informed Cabinet of the outcomes of the ESTYN core inspection visits during spring term 2025 to the following schools and pupil referral unit (PRU). He advised that during the spring term 2025, ESTYN visited three primary schools, two secondary schools and one PRU in Bridgend, who received a core inspection using the new approach. The full text of these reports is available on the ESTYN website. The following questions were asked by Cabinet Members: • frequency of school inspections in Bridgend compared to the rest of Wales and the stated six-year cycle. • communication methods with parents regarding both positive and negative inspection reports. • support available to staff and governors during the stressful inspection process. All questions were answered by the Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the content of this report.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

528. Cabinet, Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes

Decision Made	The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which sought Cabinet approval for items to be included on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 September 2025 to 28 February 2026 and for Cabinet to note the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period.
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CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

	The following points were raised by Cabinet Members: • A recent peer assessment which indicated a need for amendments to the schedule to cover different required areas. • The fact that the "Bridgend Town Centre Master Plan" had been deferred and would be presented later in the year, requiring adjustments to the program Due to the points raised, it was therefore proposed to amend the recommendations from approve to note, to allow further changes as and when they arise. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet amended the recommendation from Approve to Note, and therefor 1. Noted the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 September 2025 to 28 February 2026 at Appendix 1; 2. Noted the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period, as shown at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report, respectively.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

529. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	The Chief Officer Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report which advised Cabinet on reports published since the last meeting of Cabinet. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

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530. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

531. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u>: The following items were not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. 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.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

532. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : That the exempt minutes of the 22/07/2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2025

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

The meeting finished at 4:55pm

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