

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 24 JULY 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 THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025 AT 10:00**

Present

Councillor AJ Williams – Chairperson for the Meeting

GC Haines

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe  
M L Hughes  
MJ Williams

JPD Blundell  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

N Clarke  
RL Penhale-Thomas

S J Griffiths  
T Thomas

Apologies for Absence

H Griffiths, A Ulberini-Williams and HJ David – Mayor was on other Council business

Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and Councillor Melanie Evans – Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

Kelly Watson - Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy and Janine Nightingale – Corporate Director - Communities

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick  
Councillor Jane Gebbie  
Councillor Martyn Jones  
Councillor Paul Davies  
Councillor Neelo Farr  
Councillor Eugene Caparros

Leader  
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing  
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)

Jake Morgan  
Carys Lord  
Lindsay Harvey  
Claire Marchant

Chief Executive  
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change  
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

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

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Martin Morgans  
Alex Rawlin  
Kate Pask  
Paul Miles  
Philip O'Brien  
Rachel Keepins

Interim Head of Operations – Community Services  
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager  
Corporate Performance Manager  
Group Manager - Human Resources and Organisational Development  
Digital Transformation and Customer Services Manager  
Democratic Services Manager

**Officers:**

Meryl Lawrence  
Jessica Mclellan

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny  
Scrutiny Officer

**Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J Llewellyn-Hopkins – Item 4 – Prejudicial – Family members are due to be in receipt of a Disabled Facilities Grant

**162. Appointment of a Chairperson**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> Councillor AJ Williams was appointed as Chairperson for the meeting.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**163. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b> That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 30 June 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

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**164. Budget Monitoring 2025-26 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following requests for additional information:</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Committee requested:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the terms of reference for the fleet services review report be circulated to Members;</li><li>b. that the scope of the report should include the extent of the losses and the importance of the fleet services function; and</li><li>c. the date by which the Committee could expect the report scheduled.</li></ol></li><li>2. The Committee <b>requested</b> an update confirming when the exit terms of the recycling centre at Tythegston are likely to be finalised and the likely costs of any remediation works.</li><li>3. The Committee <b>requested</b> the most up to date figure of deficit balances for schools.</li></ol>
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**165. Quarter 4 / Year End Performance 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>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:</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. The Committee expressed concern regarding the lack of a target regarding sickness levels and <b>recommended</b> that the issue of sickness and appraisals is strengthened in the Corporate Plan Delivery Plan which is scheduled to the December meeting of the Committee.</li></ol>
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	<p>5. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the Deep Dive Group for the Chief Executive Directorate explore the support available for employees and the issues of staffing in the financial and legal departments.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested:</b></p> <p>6. The Committee <b>requested</b> comparative sickness data from other Welsh local authorities when available from Data Cymru.</p> <p>7. The Committee expressed concern regarding the achievability of the 100% target for mandatory e-learning modules and <b>requested</b> an update demonstrating the change to the Performance Indicator for the upcoming year and how mandatory e-learning will be managed. In addition, the Committee requested that Members be kept informed of the movement from the old to the new model.</p> <p>8. In relation to the staff survey, the Committee <b>requested:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. written briefing on the work being undertaken;</li><li>b. confirmation of when the Committee could receive a full report on the topic; and</li><li>c. data demonstrating any directorates/service areas where the response rate has been particularly low.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**166. Self-Assessment 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations:</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>9. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the new Welsh-Medium Seedling School planned for Porthcawl be included in 'expanding Welsh medium education opportunities' section of the report.</p>
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	10. The Committee expressed concern regarding the Council's ability to recruit to certain technical positions and <b>recommended</b> that a recruitment plan be developed exploring creative approaches and a sustainability plan for recruitment.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**167. Digital Strategy**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>11. The Committee expressed concern regarding the relatively low number of responses received to the consultation and <b>recommended</b> that responses be sought from young people in schools, Bridgend College and Bridgend Youth Council.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested:</b></p> <p>12. The Committee <b>requested</b> a copy of the draft Digital Strategy 2025-2029.</p> <p>13. The Committee <b>requested</b> the number of Hwb devices apportioned per School and further detail of the investment in the replacement programme.</p> <p>14. The Committee <b>requested</b> that detail of broadband social tariffs for individuals on means tested benefits be circulated to Members to allow them to update residents accordingly.</p>
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**168. Scrutiny Budget Working Group**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report the Committee approved size, composition and nominations process to the Working Group, the Draft Terms of Reference in Appendix A and the Proposed Structure of Scrutiny Budget Working Group and Draft outline of schedule of meetings in Appendix B.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**169. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following addition, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendices C, D and E.  1. The Committee <b>requested</b> that the Audit Wales Report, <i>Arrangements for Commissioning Services – Bridgend County Borough Council</i> referred from the Governance and Audit Committee be circulated to Members of the Committee for consideration and that an update on the report be added to the Committee's FWP on 23 October 2025.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

**170. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	24 July 2025

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

The meeting closed at 14:29.