

CABINET - TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

DECISION RECORD 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, 21 OCTOBER 2025 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
P Davies

J Gebbie
M J Evans

HM Williams
M Jones

E L P Caparros

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Alex Rawlin
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Lindsay Harvey
Michael Pitman
Nimi Chandrasena
Gaynor Thomas
Martin Morgans
Kelly Pardon

Chief Executive
Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
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
Democratic Services Officer
Sustainable Manager for Learning, Education Department
Interim Head of Operations, Community Services
Housing Policy Officer - SRS

533. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

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534. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were made:- Cllr Paul Davies – Prejudicial Interest in Item 11 as he owned property included in the Welsh Governments Leasing Scheme Cllr John Spanswick and Cllr Neelo Farr declared Personal Interests in item 8 as they have relatives who are taxi drivers. Cllr Paul Davies declared a personal interest as he owned a taxi license but was not actively working in this area.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

535. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of Cabinet dated 23 September 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

536. Corporate Safeguarding Policy Review

Decision Made	The Deputy Leader presented a report on an a revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy for approval. The update strengthens two key areas following an internal audit: • Clear training requirements, including a refresher every 3 years • A new safeguarding protocol for contractors
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	The policy was attached at appendix 1 to the report Confirmation was sought that staff were engaging with the training relevant to their roles as it was noted in the report that the figure was currently at 85.77%. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that 100% was difficult to achieve as there were new staff, maternity and sick leave to take into consideration, but all staff work to get as close as possible to completion of all training and this was monitored closely. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the updated Corporate Safeguarding Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

537. Scrutiny Recommendation from Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Decision Made	The Chair of the Community Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented a report which sought approval on a recommendation from the Committee regarding Community Asset Transfers. The Committee discussed the previously proposed significant increase in charges for the use of Council-owned pitches and sporting facilities and recommended that Cabinet consider whether the policy is still accurate and fit for purpose in the current financial climate and that the Deep Dive Group for the Communities Directorate explore the charging policy. The following points were raised by Cabinet Members: • Equity problem of between the groups that had taken on CAT's and those that hadn't. • 500% increase rumors. The Corporate Director Communities stated that Officers were committed to reviewing the policy and taking on board the Scrutiny recommendations and would bring a report to Cabinet it due course. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered and responded to the recommendation of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-
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538. Panel Performance Assessment

Decision Made	The Leader presented a report which informed Cabinet of the findings of the Panel Performance Assessment that took place between 16-19 September 2025 and sought approval of the next steps in the process. At the end of the peers' week on site, they gave a presentation on their findings which addressed the three performance requirements and the three areas of focus we provided. Since then, their final report has been received by the Council. The report is included at Appendix 1 and presentation at Appendix 2. The Chief Executive stated that staying the same was not really an option and the recommendations involve moving "at pace," with specific proposals expected for the November council meeting. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:- • Considered the findings of the PPA detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report. • Endorsed the next steps in responding to PPA in Paragraphs 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of the report.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

539. Self Assessment 2024/25

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented a report which sought Cabinet endorsement and recommendation to Council of the self-assessment for 2024/25 included at Appendix 1 and the accompanying performance information at Appendix 2. He highlighted the table at 3.8 of the report which set out the judgements for 2024/25 using the Red, Amber, Yellow, Green (RAYG) status.
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	He noted some impressive achievements which included significant improvements in Children's Services, the opening of Maesteg Town Hall, three Blue Flag beaches and being the best in Wales for recycling (at 73%). <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered and endorsed the draft Self-Assessment 2024/25 report at Appendix 1, as supported by performance information in the report's Appendix 2, to submit to Council for approval.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

540. Bridgend Town Centre Access

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing presented a report which updated Cabinet on the Bridgend Town Centre Access project, following a Call-in of the Cabinet decision made on 23 September 2025. The Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their extraordinary meeting of 3 October 2025 sought approval to introduce an 18-month Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) comprising the following measures: • increased flexibility for loading and unloading; • additional exemptions to existing Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) when protective bollards are raised; • improved access and secure parking for cycling; and • expanded Blue-badge parking provision on Derwen Road The Leader acknowledged that the 56% of respondents in the study who supported reintroducing traffic was not highlighted in the report and asked for this to be corrected. The Corporate Director Communities suggested an amendment to allow taxis access to the town centre as part of the ETRO, subject to a safety audit.
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	and new parking for blue badge holders along Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street alongside the implementation of the ETRO. 7. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to progress further work to consider enabling further vehicular access along Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street alongside the implementation of the ETRO 8. Noted that further reports will be presented to Cabinet proposing a permanent position in respect of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO) and on Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan Projects. 9. Cabinet Members moved a further recommendation to: delegate authority to the Corporate Director Communities to progress further work to allow taxi drivers access alongside the implementation of the ETRO
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

541. Reinstatement of Bus service via Mawdlam/Kenfig pool

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing which sought approval to modify the Supported Public Bus Routes Contract for the Bridgend to Porthcawl Service No. 63, in order to reinstate a bus service via Mawdlam/Kenfig Pool, which ceased operating in August 2019. The proposal involves modifying the existing Service 63 (Bridgend-Porthcawl) to divert one bus per hour through the area. The cost (£64,566) is covered by a Welsh Government grant, resulting in "no extra cost" to the council The Cabinet Member Resources asked what mitigation was in place to prevent the service from being discontinued again. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing explained that by 2029, Wales will move to a franchise bus system under "one network, one timetable, one ticket," which aims to deliver a more reliable service. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet: • Considered the content of the report and approved the modification of the existing contract for Service
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	No. 63; • Delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Communities, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, to agree the terms of and enter into any documents or deeds necessary to effect the modification.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

542. Budget Monitoring 2025-26 - Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented a report which updated Cabinet on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30th September 2025. He advised that Table 1 provided a comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30th September 2025, while Table 2 highlighted the Budget Reductions for 2025-26. He noted that the report eluded to a projected net <i>underspend</i> of £5.9 million, however, this was noted as "predominantly due to the receipt of a number of grants from Welsh government" Pressures remained on base budgets, with directorates projecting a £453,000 <i>overspend</i>. A Cabinet Member asked how solid the projection was, given a 10% shortfall in achieving planned savings which was answered by the Chief Office – Finance, Housing and Change. RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the projected revenue position for 2025-26.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

543. Empty Homes Strategy 2025-2030

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing presented a report which sought Cabinet approval of the Empty Homes Strategy 2025-2030 attached as Appendix A. The new 5-year strategy focuses on early engagement, financial support, and stronger enforcement to bring empty homes back into use.
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	The following points were discussed: • The strategy not covering commercial properties, but just residential. • The 300% council tax premium on empty properties and reasoning <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet approved the Empty Homes Strategy 2025-2030.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

544. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

545. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 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 Cabinet resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, and therefore agreed for the public to be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

546. School Modernisation Programme - Welsh-Medium Secondary Provision

Decision Made	As this is an exempt item the decision of the report is confidential and not available for public inspection.
Date Decision Made	21 October 2025

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

The meeting closed at 17:30.