

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
<b>Revenue Budget Outturn 2024-25</b>			
<b>Recommendations</b>			
<b>1</b>	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.	There is a strong dialogue ongoing between Council Leaders, the WLGA and the Senedd regarding the funding required to ensure the range and quality of services provided by Local Government can continue into next financial year and beyond.	
<b>2</b>	The Committee expressed concern regarding the unexpected storm damage costs arising from Storm Bert and Storm Darragh and	The Council receives grant monies from WG every year to manage environmental issues such as flood mitigation. There is also an opportunity to claim capital monies spent on repairs to the Countys infrastructure, as a result of major storms, from Welsh Government. This is something that BCBC routinely undertakes particularly for large storms such as Bert and Darragh. We will however discuss whether additional funding needs to be ear marked giving	Partially Accepted

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	<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.	the increasing occurrence of these extreme weather events and will report back to COSC as part of the budget process.	
<b>Additional Information Requested:</b>			
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estyn Thematic Review – The additional learning needs system: Progress of schools, settings and local authorities in supporting pupils with additional learning needs</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1146 1067 1200 1129" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The-additional-learning-needs-system.pdf</p> <p>The SEND agenda is not relevant in Wales. However, please note the following reports have been completed in England and may be of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House of Commons – Support for children and young people with special education needs</li> </ul>	Not applicable

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025



## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
		<a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/46238/documents/231788/default/">https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/46238/documents/231788/default/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House of Lords – Special education needs and disabilities: Government support</li> </ul> <a href="https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-government-support/">https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-government-support/</a>	
4	The Committee discussed the impact of redundancies in schools and <b>requested</b> the number of voluntary redundancies for the period reported.	<p>Redundancies are only considered when there are no other options available in relation to a future structure to remain within budget requirements.</p> <p>While the redundancy position is compulsory, there are opportunities for individuals to put themselves forward as part of the restructure proposal.</p> <p>In the year September 2024 to August 2025, there have been 10 redundancies across schools.</p>	Not applicable
5	The Committee <b>requested</b> information regarding the sum of money funding hospital education referred to in Budget Reduction Proposal EDF515.	<p>Home schools and local authorities are identified and contacted for all children and young people of statutory school age, based at Ty Llidiard and education costs are agreed.</p> <p>Education provision is no longer provider for Post-16 pupils at Ty Llidiard as these costs cannot be recovered.</p>	Not applicable

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025


## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
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>EYSOSC Tŷ Lliardiard Summary 030725 v1.</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>Usable Reserves June 2025.docx</p>	Not applicable
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-	<p>Based on the Quarter 1 Revenue Monitoring projections, re-alignment of base budgets has been sufficient to meet the pressures from 2024-25 with only one exception.</p> <p>Children's services received a budget pressure of £3.250 million for 2025-26 relating to ongoing pressures of Care Experienced Children and insufficient numbers of foster carers.</p> <p>At quarter 1, there was a net over spend of £362,000 on the Independent Residential Care and Fostering budgets. It must be noted however that two significant grants had not been confirmed for the quarter 1 projections (Social Care Workforce Grant and Eliminating Profit) – updates will be provided in the</p>	

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	25. The Committee also <b>requested</b> information regarding which grants were one-offs and which were ongoing.	<p>quarter 2 monitoring where projections should improve based on allocation of these grants across the directorate.</p> <p>The overall projected net over spend has arisen mainly as a result of the high number of independent residential placements, which has led to a projected over spend in this particular service area of £946,000. This has been partly offset by under spends in other areas (e.g. Independent Fostering Agency budget) to result in the net projected over spend of £362,000.</p> <p>At quarter 1 2025-26 there were 28 placements compared with 24 at quarter 1 2024-25. There is a strategy to reduce these as part of the Eliminating Profit agenda but this will not impact on the budget with immediate effect as it is dependent on the opening of new in-house residential provision and exiting children safely from current placements.</p> <p>Grants – please find attached grants confirmed to date for 2025-26 per directorate and whether they are one-off or recurring.</p>  <p>8 - 2025-26 Grants spreadsheet - All Dire</p>	
9	The Committee discussed the shortfall against Bridgend Market due to the identification of Reinforced	A confidential briefing will be arranged for Members on this item.	Accepted

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	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.		
<b>Scrutiny Budget Working Group</b>			
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	Steering Group took place on 29 July 2025.	Accepted

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	the report to their Groups for discussion.		
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.	Scrutiny to action with Corporate Director and Chair of SSWB Deep Dive Group.	Accepted
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	Scrutiny to action with Chairs of Deep Dive Groups.	Accepted

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	Deep Dive Groups remain mindful of such.		
13	The Committee <b>requested</b> that Directors bring all budget options being explored to the Deep Dive Groups.	Scrutiny to action with relevant Corporate Directors and Chairs of the Deep Dive Groups.	Accepted
<b>Forward Work Programme Update (FWP)</b>			
14	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	To be actioned by Scrutiny in work planning meeting with the Chair.	Accepted



# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 June 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
	Highways budget due to recent storm damage.		
15	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.	To be actioned by Scrutiny in work planning meeting with the Chair.	Accepted